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CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Maclean's

FEBRUARY 9, 1998

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Nagano

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and Catriona LeMay Doan

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Maclean's
CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

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Cover

GOLD RUSH

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Nagano may not be pretty, but it has the key ingredients for a successful Olympics—great facilities and friendly hosts. On Feb. 7, the city will welcome the world to a 16-day extravaganza of winter sport where Canada's athletes will try to score their best-ever medal haul.

16 Where's the money?

According to a special Maclean's inquiry, disgraced hockey czar Alan Eagleson has shifted away millions of dollars since he first came under official investigation in 1991.



22 The Clintons fight back

Immersed in a sex scandal, Bill and Hillary Clinton went on the offensive—and the President's poll ratings soared.

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The Royal Bank and the Bank of Montreal face an uphill fight to convince the federal government, and their customers, that bigger banks are better.

COVER PHOTO BY ANDY RICHMOND FOR MACLEAN'S
PHOTO LEFT TO RIGHT: TONY BLAIR, JIM CROMBIE, PRESIDENT BUSH
ROYAL BANK: ANDREW J. GIBSON; BOM: STEPHEN VAUGHAN

From The Managing Editor

Investigative reporting

Last week, Maclean's broke a story of the suicide of a student at Toronto's celebrated St. Michael's Choir School. Official investigations were launched into the death and rumors of sexual abuse, and in a few days the story was picked up by local newspapers and radio and television. The magazine got some thanks you calls from parents of students at the school who are unhappy with the way St. Michael's and the police have handled the matter—and some angry letters from friends who feel the editor is best handled in private. (page 6)

This week, National Business Correspondent Kimberley Noble and Contributing Editor Steve Cameron break new ground with their investigation into the labyrinthine financial dealings of Alan Eagleson, the disgraced and disbarred former hockey czar (page 18). Conducting dozens of interviews and wading through a small mountain of land sales and other land records, they managed to establish that Eagleson and his associates have tucked approximately \$60 million away in the Bahamas and perhaps the ranch of the hockey players he backed. There will be no need for any tag days for the Eagle when he is released from jail.

These latest disclosures in the Eagleson saga will not be warmly received by his admirers, especially by the distinguished citizens who wrote such glowing tributes to the court at the time of his sentencing. But investigative stories like the death of the choirboy and the Eagleson money trail—and others we will be pursuing in the coming months—are an important part of Maclean's mandate. It is



not enough for a merrymagazine simply to review the happenings of the previous week. We need to break new ground, to alert readers to things they do not know, to offer them a perspective they may not have thought of, and to put events into a context that makes complicated issues more understandable.

Not least, we need to look ahead at the issues and events that will engage the nation's attention in the coming weeks, as this issue does with a complete package of pre-Olympic Games coverage and photographs. Next week, we will take an advance look at the subject on which the national spotlight will be focused later in the month: the Supreme Court of Canada's historic hearing to decide whether Quebec has the legal and constitutional right to declare independence without the consent of the rest of the country.

The United States has Bill Clinton, Monica Lewinsky, Paula Jones, Gennifer Flowers and who knows how many others in the scrapheap on the Potomac. Canadian preoccupations may seem pedestrian in comparison. But the Supreme Court ruling will set in train a number of Quebec elections and referendums, perhaps, but infinitely more important than the titillation offered by the President and the interns. And definitely worth reporting with intelligence and thoroughness.



Eagleson, St. Michael's Choir School, breaking news

series of events, leading to another Quebec election and referendum, perhaps, but infinitely more important than the titillation offered by the President and the interns. And definitely worth reporting with intelligence and thoroughness.

Stephen Harper

Newsroom Notes:

Team Maclean's

As Canada's Olympics have been tuning up after the XVII Winter Games, Maclean's own team of writers, editors, photographers and designers has been working overtime in itself. This week's issue features a 26-page cover package that profiles the host city of Nagano and the Canadian and international stars who will skate, ski, slide, jump, curl and shoot for gold from Feb. 7 to 22. In addition, the magazine includes a special 16-page pullout: "Nagano diary"—a day-by-day guide to the



Levin (left), Duncan: great stories

Games ready-made for setting beside the TV. The entire Olympic preview was overseen by Sports Editor James Duncan and Executive Editor Bob Levin, and designed by Art Director Nick Barnett.

With the preliminaries completed, attention now turns to covering the Games themselves. Duncan files to Nagano this week, and will be joined by Ottawa Editor Bruce Wallace and Photo Editor Peter Briggs—Olympic veterans all. "The Games are always full of great stories," says Duncan, "but this Canadian team seems to have more potential than ever before." Adds Levin,

who will edit the Olympic stories: "Bets and braggers may be smoking pre sports, and the Olympics can hardly claim innocence. But for a couple of weeks we don't seem to care—the Games are all about dreams and doing-do and we can't get enough of them."

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AIR FRANCE

WINNING THE HEARTS OF THE WORLD



Clearing up in Aylmer, Ont.: channeling the gumboosity

Ice storm reflections

We are warm. We have power ("Survival skills," *Canada*, Jan. 26). "You were" is the root of this country for the cure and support you have given us in these trying times. Quebec has had more than its share of disastrous events in the past few years: floods, blackouts, freezing temperatures and—oh, yes—the referendum. Canada, you have come through for us each and every time and we are better off many thanks because of you are proud to be part of such a great country. If only we could channel that wonderful spirit into solving the real problems of real people around of political agendas that seem to be for the sake of who gets to be in charge and who can win or lose.

Lucie Lamoine,
Aylmer, Que.

I am writing this letter by hand because a computer needs electricity to function. As of today, we have been without power in this

area 45 minutes south of Montreal for 26 days. This is Quebec, a beautiful, cold days. It is hard work to live without electricity. We manage, but we are all very stressed. Candlelight dinners have lost their allure. My husband is a self-employed car painter. No power, no power tools, no income. I am a substitute teacher. No school, no work, no income. Yet the bills keep arriving. The 630-day compensation won't even pay for the \$1,000 generator we bought, which exploded after less than 20 hours of service. It's not over yet, not for us at any rate.

Elaine Rasmussen-Holmes,
Roussillon, Que.

As I sit here tonight in front of my computer screen, I think of the recent power failure and the disastrous effect the ice storm had, not only on myself and my family, but on the thousands of people

who live in eastern Ontario and Quebec. One hundred years ago, the storm would have been an inconvenience, disastrous to trees, but not to man. Put another log on the fire, and we'd go on with our lives and business. Our dependency on electricity is kind of scary. That being said, I would like to commend the mayor, councillors, works department, hydro, EMCO, Lion's Club and everyone else for the manner in which this major crisis was handled. The prompt declaration of emergency status and our community in an excellent position to receive assistance early on. The generosity of everyone was a real credit to this community.

Art Bielek,
Markham, Ont.

Proud appointment

I was delighted to read of the appointment of Canadian ambassador Lucie Fréchette as the first UN deputy secretary general for two reasons ("Efficiency expert," *World*, Jan. 26). First, as a Canadian citizen, it makes me immensely proud. Second, in 1974, when travelling in Italy, my late wife and I were stripped of our traveller's cheques and passports by brigands on our last evening in Rome. It was unfortunate that we arrange replacements the following day in order to connect with our tour bus. Thanks to successful Fréchette and her friendly, cool efficiency we were able to

Scales of justice

In the *Canada Notes* section of the Jan. 26 edition, there are two articles about people convicted of fraud. In "Sentenced for fraud," Tracy Seroussi costs four men out of more than \$200,000 and gets two years. In the other, "The Eagle wins," former NHL players' association president Alan Eagleson, who was convicted of fraud and theft charges of likely much more than \$200,000, gets 18 months. Is this more for less, or are the scales of justice that much out of whack?

M. J. Heister,
Guelph, Ont.

acquire new cheques, photos, passports, etc., and safely ride our train with a minimum of confusion. At the time, I prophesied to my wife that Ms. Fréchette would go places in the Canadian civil service, and indeed she surely and happily has.

Tamara P. Dole,
Toronto

Tabloid standards

Students at St. Michael's Choir School are supplied by allegations of "sexual impropriety" ("Death of a choirboy," *Canada*, Feb. 2). You should be ashamed of yourselves for fabricating a sensationalistic story to stir up controversy over school. Your attempt at looking in to "The Boys of St. Michael's" discredits us and proves that what was once a respectable institution has, in our opinion, lowered itself to tabloid standards. If you are looking for a scandal concerning "sexual impropriety," sex, drugs, staff, shade and alcohol of the choir school will tell you that you are looking in the wrong place.

Sylvain Royce,
Student council treasurer
St. Michael's Choir School,
Toronto

As a nephew of a teacher at St. Michael's Choir School, I am bewildered by your implication that there exists a conspiracy of silence at the school. Teenage scandals are a tragic but all too common occurrence. To suggest the school could have done anything different is as much as saying before the complexity and depth of the issue. Your statement that the students altered "a line of text" is also erroneous. The text was significantly changed after having been approved—a serious action, especially when considering that the new version was defamatory.

Baron G. Nelson,
Toronto

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THE MAIL: More poll questions

I jumped your year-end poll "A confident Canada," *Covey*, Dec. 10/Jan. 6, however, as a member of the baby-booster generation, it appeared to me that older generations are in creating the poll questions may have blacked recognition of some of the largest generational differences. Participants were asked if they agreed with the statement: "Most women with young children would be happier if they could stay at home and take care of their children." This should have been coupled with the statement: "Most men with young children would be happier if they could stay at home and take care of their children." It was a matter of small children, I would prefer to spend at least half of the day with them. I would expect my partner, however, to spend equal time with them. You determined that Canadians consider parenting an important issue. In a two-parent family, shouldn't child care be a joint responsibility?

Wendy Ann DeLorenzo,
Tulsa, OK

Based on a solely cited Macdonald/CBC News poll, you erroneously declared that "poll respondents favor a tax cut over spending plans." This apparent fiscal conservatism seems curiously inconsistent with the poll's writer key finding that the majority of all Canadians describe themselves as liberal "in their views and behavior." The answer to this conundrum is obvious. On the question "What should the government do with any extra money left over after the deficit is eliminated?" your poll gives only three options: pay down the debt, provide tax reductions, or pay for new social program spending. Had you included a question on increasing funding to existing programs, I believe that the overwhelming majority of Canadians would have endorsed this option. This would be consistent with your finding of liberalism and other polls that show Canadians believe our health-care and education programs are so seriously underfunded as to threaten their survival as universally accessible quality programs.

Bob Hyden,
Bloom, IL

Believing in Jesus

I would like to disagree with the statement "Believers battle over the divinity of Christ," on the cover page of the Dec. 15 issue ("Is Jesus really God?" *Correy*). It would read: "Believers agree that Jesus is truly God and fully human. Those who do not agree with this Bible statement are not believers." A person cannot be an both sides of the question.

André Drouin,
Alamogordo, Calif.



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Adults... you've changed just a little.

Backstage



Anthony Wilson-Smith

Do Canadians want to know?

When it comes to scandal, intrigue and wrongdoing in Ottawa, my journalistic on identity always proved helpful. Private Minister Jean Charest routinely violates established rules of grammar. Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray, a rock 'n' roll aficionado, is believed guilty of playing Hootie and the Blowfish on his stereo at unacceptably high decibel levels. Reform Leader Preston Manning, during visits to Quebec, systematically assaults the French language. All members of the Bloc Québécois commit verbal abuse of English Canada. The New Democratic Party engaged the 1990s and holds their tongue in its political program. The Progressive Conservatives, who first rejected all their ideas stolen by the Liberals, are now believed causing themselves.

In short, for better and worse, the history of political scandals reported by the Canadian media is small beer compared to that of the United States. That is mostly cause for satisfaction: the prospect of the Prime Minister or Manning engaging in an extramarital dalliance seems as unlikely as it is unappealing. Clinton's dallies with probably alienates Canadians to peer south at President Bill Clinton's alleged sexual follies, secure (or perhaps wishful) in the knowledge that such things could never happen here.

In fact, there is no reason why they could not, although the volume of allegations against Clinton bears a typically American greediness of scale. But even before could arise the possibility of scandal in Ottawa, two questions arise: As Canadians want to know salacious details about their political leaders—and, if so, would the media let them? The answer to the first is negative, to the second, probably not.

When it comes to countermeasures involving the personal lives of politicians, members of the parliamentary press gallery traditionally operate on two levels: there is the obvious of scandals they publicly cover, and the much longer list of those they privately speculate on. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had a mistress who bore him a child—but it was not until recent years that Laurier biographers mentioned that fact. William Lyon Mackenzie King's lecherousness with prostitutes was not written about until the publication of his diaries long after his death.

In the 1970s, Canadian interest about Margaret Trudeau's indiscretions only after they appeared in the American media; until then, Canadian journalists were aware, but of those they privately speculate on. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had a mistress who bore him a child—but it was not until recent years that Laurier biographers mentioned that fact. William Lyon Mackenzie King's lecherousness with prostitutes was not written about until the publication of his diaries long after his death.

Conservative critics once hoped to find another mistress in bed with his wife. At least one member of a Liberal cabinet had a public affair while married. Both the Tories and the present Liberal administration have had cabinet ministers believed to have serious drinking problems. All such cases were virtually ignored.

There are a variety of reasons for that. Journalists can be reluctant to pass information damaging to a confidential source. Reporters, MPs and their political aides often interact in the most personal ways—including times when one or both are married to others. And, although some politicians would be amused by the sins, many journalists do not relish exposing embarrassment on their

Another reason for silence is the explanation that the alleged scandals are impossible to verify, often, however, this is because reporters only make half-hearted attempts at verification. Then, there is the notion that Canadians do not share Americans' appetite for gossip and intrigue—and, in fact, repelled by same. But journalist Simon Gagné in the *Toronto Star*, a crackling attack on Brian Mulroney and his government, has sold more than 250,000 copies. The national gossip magazine *Week* sells a respectable average of 30,000 copies of each issue, despite the fact it spends next to nothing on promotion, is only available in a few cities, and carries content in that even its publisher, Michael Katz, admits may be only half-true.

The strongest argument for keeping silent in this private lives should remain unless they affect the politician's performance as a public figure. Someone who is, say, secretly homosexual should be allowed to stay in the closet—unless he or she publicly suggest to subvert gay actors and legislators. A politician with an alcohol problem is left alone until it appears that it is affecting his or her public performance. And a politician's second affairs go unreported—unless he or she is vigorously exposing family values.

That is changing. In Washington, Newsweek—which had the original allegations against Clinton delayed publication because of concern about their veracity. But when details were released on the Internet in *The Drudge Report*—whose author had no additional means of determining if they were true—they immediately entered the public domain. Frank, in Canada, routinely does the same. One principle cited is "the public's right to know." The question is whether that should encompass things that are unproven, unsorted or untrue. Another justification is the age-old vow to "publish and be damned." It sounds rather noble—except that the one most damaged by gossip is almost never the politician. Should journalists be expected to publicly declare all the speculation they make in private to save another? If so, the obvious answer is either to investigate a lot more—or to talk a lot less.

Opening Notes

Edited by BARBARA WYCKROS

Hollywood or Washington?

When *Wag the Dog* premiered late last year, it was just a deft political satire—the story of a White House flack (Robert De Niro) and a Hollywood producer (Dustin Hoffman) who concoct a phony war to divert public attention from a sex scandal that could cost the president his job. But last week, as President Bill Clinton raised the spectre of war against Iraq amid allegations that he had an affair with a White House intern, the movie seemed eerily prescient. In the film, the scandal concerns a three-minute sexual dalliance between the president and a “flirty girl” in a hallway room of the Oval Office, the same room mentioned in the real-life allegations. *Wag the Dog* also has a TV news clip of the fictional president prodding the girl at a luncheon—the scene bears an uncanny resemblance to the now-infamous clip of Clinton hugging former White House intern Monica Lewinsky right down to the black beret worn by the girl in the film.

Wag the Dog is not the only movie echoing Clinton's alleged escapades. In *Primary Colors*, based on the 1995 best-selling novel by U.S. political columnist Joe Klein, director Mike Nichols casts John Travolta as a philandering southern governor campaigning for the presidency. When the \$90-million movie opens on March 20,



Hoffman, De Niro, in *Wag the Dog* for comedy

the Lewinsky scandal could give it a boost at the box office, just as *The Clinton Scandal* (the movie's scandalous theme starring Jane Fonda) benefited from being released just prior to the Three Mile Island accident in 1979. But some Hollywood observers have suggested that Clinton's woes may hurt sales for *Primary Colors* because the movie now seems too close for comfort.

In any event, salting the image of the presidency—once so dignified in Hollywood movies—now seems far gone. In last year's *Aladdin* *Prince*, Genie (Richard Dreyfuss) played a genies who covers up the murder of his master. Perhaps Clinton should rest it—his own troubles might seem a little lighter by comparison.

A Titanic way to raise money



Last Oscar anniversary

unforgettable, says Susan Ruffledge, Hollywood's business development associate. Presumably, say they will be no isobey left.

writer Rick Archbold and Dennis McGuffey Tickets—or boarding passes—will sell for \$250. And so many would-be patrons might not be able to afford that, officials are also considering a “charitable” party. “This dinner represents our own maiden voyage fundraising, and we’re sure it’ll be

unforgettable,” says Susan Ruffledge, Hollywood's business development associate. Presumably, say they will be no isobey left.

An undiplomatic list

Paul Fraser, minister of public affairs at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, has, reluctantly, been in the media spotlight lately. The January issue of *Washington*, a magazine that glorifies life in the capital, published the top 25 house sales in 1997. Senator Ted Kennedy's house was No. 1 on the list, selling to Hong Kong shopping bar Eric Hsing for \$5.9 million (\$8.6 million Cdn.). And tied with two others for seventh place was Fraser's, the only Canadian to make the list. He sold his wife, Tina Fraser, a prominent dermatologist, purchased their house in the swank Washington neighborhood of Georgetown in January, 1997, for \$2.7 million (\$2.5 million Cdn.). Fraser says he was shocked that “his private business” had been made public. “I don't like it been either a privacy or a security perspective.” While goldfisher Kennedy's house may have taken first place, the list of wealthiest buyers was dominated by those who are essential to the public in a different way: doctors and lawyers.

No E for effort by Canadian kids

Ugh. The kids' report cards are in, and they are barely passing. This week, the Heart and Stroke Foundation graded the health habits of Canadian children, and the results—based on a survey of 480 families across the country—are far from satisfactory. The worst grades are in nutrition. Only 30 per cent of six-to-12-year-olds meet the recommended daily amounts of fruit and vegetables, and just 28 per cent regularly eat whole grain breads and cereals. And there is room for improvement when it comes to junk food. Only 80 per cent restrict their intake of candy and potato chips to no more than three times a week. Marks for exercise are also disappointing. Thirty-one per cent of children engage in active play lower than three times a week. But the foundation's experts are most dismayed by children's exposure to second-hand smoke. Almost half—47 per cent—breathe in air contaminated by the 4,000 chemicals from their parents' cigarettes.

Overall, the marks are dismal, but children have plenty of time to improve their lifestyle habits, mainly “The period is they don't,” says Toronto cardiologist Anthony Graham. “Fat kids are likely to become fat adults. Inactive kids tend to remain inactive as adults. And if a parent smokes, a kid is twice as likely to become a smoker.” Not only are these bad habits harder to break in later years, kids' habits often lead to a higher incidence of high blood pressure, heart disease and—the ultimate failure—ear-early death.

BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. *Prozac Nation*, Elizabeth Wurtzel (2)
2. *The Love Machine*, John Grisham (2)
3. *Ken's Secret*, Anthony Browne (2)
4. *The Girl on the Train*, Rachel Watson (2)
5. *Amish Girl in City*, Rita K. Coombs (2)
6. *John Doe*, Jeffrey Deaver (2)
7. *The Girl on the Train*, Rachel Watson (2)
8. *The Girl on the Train*, Rachel Watson (2)
9. *The Girl on the Train*, Rachel Watson (2)
10. *The Girl on the Train*, Rachel Watson (2)

NON-FICTION

1. *Angels in America*, Caryl Churchill (2)
2. *The White House*, Peter H. Ravn (2)
3. *The White House*, Peter H. Ravn (2)
4. *The White House*, Peter H. Ravn (2)
5. *The White House*, Peter H. Ravn (2)
6. *The White House*, Peter H. Ravn (2)
7. *The White House*, Peter H. Ravn (2)
8. *The White House*, Peter H. Ravn (2)
9. *The White House*, Peter H. Ravn (2)
10. *The White House*, Peter H. Ravn (2)

The worst of the lot



William Howard Taft, who played bridge as a pastime, died in 1930.

The Rocky Mountain resort



Banff's Asian flu

Banff has trended the medicine to help ease a dropping Canadian dollar. With traffic from the lucrative Asian market to the scenic resort town down by 10 per cent in the past nine months, an influx of tourists from Ba-

siya and the United States has helped offset the decline. “The falling Canadian dollar has been very well for us, especially in travel,” says Greg McLaughlin, executive director of the Banff-Lake Louise Tourism Board. “They can come here for two weeks for the same price as two weeks in France.” But even with new clientele from Europe, Japanese tourists are feeling the pinch. In the case of the popular Banff Springs Hotel, business is off 20 per cent because of Asian economic troubles—and there is no rebound in sight. “This blip could last two or three years,” warns Ted McLaughlin, Banff Springs general manager. McLaughlin says the Korean market “has dried,” and he has the hotel placed in the silver markets in Malaysia and the Philippines. In the meantime, Banffians will bear the brunt of the Asian economic troubles—and there is no rebound in sight.

Passages



RECOVERING: The Queen Mother, 97, after successful surgery to replace her fractured left hip at the King Edward VII hospital in London. The most popular member of the Royal Family, the Queen Mother led while inspecting her new horses at Sandringham, the royal estate in eastern England. She had undergone replacement surgery on her right hip in November, 1995. Attending doctors expect her to remain in hospital until mid-February.

INVESTED: Wayne Gretzky, 37, into the Order of Canada, by Gov. Gen. Roméo LeBlanc, at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Gretzky was named an officer of the order in 1994, but because of his hockey schedule he was unable to attend one of the regular investiture ceremonies until last week. Gretzky was accompanied by his parents, Walter and Phyllis Gretzky.

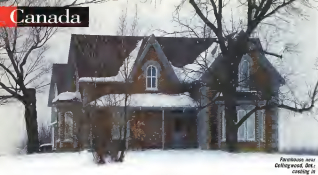
DIED: Shunichi Suzuki, 99, whose revolutionary Suzuki Method has helped millions of young adults learn the world's most popular instrument, the violin, in Matsuyama, Japan. He introduced the program, which involves teaching immersion and memory, instead of theory and notes, in 1950.

ELECTED: Former Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland as director general of the World Health Organization, in Geneva. Brundtland, a physician, is the first woman to head the organization.

DIED: Longtime Liberal MP Ed Stelmach, 82, after a lengthy illness, in Owen Sound, Ont. Stelmach served four terms as mayor of Owen Sound before serving in the provincial legislature from 1963-87.

DIED: Stage and television actor Donald Davis, 70, of lung disease, in Toronto. Davis worked on both Canada and the United States, appearing at the Stratford Festival and on Broadway with stars such as Katharine Hepburn.

APPOINTED: Hal Jackson, 65, lieutenant-governor of Ontario from 1980 to 1997, to a three-year term as chairman of the Ontario Arts Council, in Toronto.



Fairmount near Collingwood, Ont., coming at

Where's the money?

Alan Eagleson has salted away millions of dollars

BY KIMBERLEY NOBLE
and STEVIE CAMERON

Last fall's sale of the undeveloped land around the Montserrat golf course below Ontario's Blue Mountains is, by any standards, a peculiar financial arrangement. The fact that it involves a healthy chunk of disputed hockey cash (Alan Eagleson's personal fortune ranks it all the more fascinating). The sale of the Collingwood, Ont., recreational property has almost as many twists and turns as the 18-hole course itself. However convoluted, this deal is only one of dozens that appear to be paving the way for Eagleson's prosperous post-prison retirement. Since the FBI announced in December, 1991, that it was investigating Eagleson and his business associates, this group has liquidated or transferred some \$16 million. Of that, just about as much money has been sent to the 18-hole course itself.

Centre after placing guilty as January to travel and their charges in Canada and the United States.

Take the Montserrat sale. It started out, in the summer of 1990, as a reasonably conventional liquidation of several million dollars'



Eagleson liquidating Fairmount along with other assets

worth of condominiums and chalet lots in the Blue Mountains resort area. Blue Mountains Resorts Ltd., which is owned by the descendants of its founder, Jack Windsor, owns a land development company called Craggfield Development Ltd., which in turn owns 50 per cent of Montserrat Properties Ltd. Montserrat, of which Eagleson owns 25 per cent, owns the Blue Mountains golf course, and has spent the past 25 years developing, with mixed success, residential housing on the property. It was one of these developments, a 50-acre parcel of unimproved land on the nearby mountain edge of the development, that got Eagleson into trouble in the first place when it was discovered, in 1988, that he had been using hockey player pension money to finance land flips among business associates.

By October of last year, the Montserrat group, whose owners also include William Barry Loft, a Collingwood businessman with a second address on Grand Canyon Island, had abandoned the efforts of their real estate agents to bring in a big brand-name developer. Montserrat decided to go with a local buyer, a small company called Westbrook Development Corp. Westbrook snatched up roughly 300 undeveloped residential lots for \$3.6 million, with help from Eagleson and his partners, who made the deal possible by providing Westbrook with \$2.8 million vendor take-back mortgage.

So far, not too bad. But then, in a move that defies logic, the Montserrat group signed this mortgage, its largest remaining asset other than the golf course, over as security for a \$20,000 loan—which, it should be noted, was made by Montserrat investors

to the company itself. That loan is now held by Craggfield and a mysterious investment company called Collingwood Triangle Financial Inc., run out of Lansberg, N.S., by James B. Jones. According to mortgage documents, the annual payments of \$120,000 on the \$2.8-million mortgage will be paid to Craggfield and Jones—in the latter case being held in trust for Jones's unidentified clients—until October, 2008.

Nobody contacted with these transactions responded to requests for an explanation. This Eagleson investigation is suspicious that it is another one of the former lawyer's trademark schemes for moving money and paper around in such a way that money outsiders cannot find the source or destination of the cash. "This looks to me like a way to hide the money and take an advance on the interest," observed retired Toronto banker Simon Foster, who, as a result of his relationship with former NHL defectors and Eagleson nemesis Carl Brewer, has spent 20 years tracking Eagleson's use of players' money. Eagleson, who explained, always hid behind proxies. "It seems to be getting a little more sophisticated," he added, "which it needs to be, because he's under so much scrutiny."

Scrutiny is an understatement. Now that Eagleson has finally admitted that he bilked clients and corporate sponsors throughout his career, the serious money chase is on. A growing list of victims, creditors and professional investigators are determined to follow the path of every dollar the delinquent lawyer made during the years he deceived the public and the victims in prison. They include U.S. investigative journalist Ross Conway of the Lawrence, Mass., Eagle-Tribune, whose Eagleson exposé led to investigations by both the FBI and RCMP; and former Eagleson hockey client Mike Gilks, who won a \$170,000 settlement in 1991 court judgment. "There are assets," Gilks said last month, when an imprisoned Eagleson sent his lawyer to court in an effort to postpone having to answer Gilks's questions about Eagleson's financial affairs. "And we will find them." The FBI, moreover, is launching another investigation into the sources and whereabouts of the money (they believe Eagleson has stashed away in foreign countries).

Court documents show that Eagleson saw his powerful creditors coming. His want to work almost from the day he discovered that he was the subject of an FBI investigation, setting up a paper trail to hide his assets. He pleaded guilty to criminal fraud, Montserrat has discovered that Eagleson did much the same thing to protect his money.

It started in February, 1992, when Eagleson transferred the deed of his 18-hole home in Toronto's Rosedale neighborhood to his wife, Nancy—probably the world's most popular legal device for keeping assets away from creditors. A month later, Eagleson wrote a memo to Toronto associate Marvin Goldblatt, a close business manager of the Golden's help. "I spoke to Nancy regarding the CIBC," Eagleson wrote. "Has explained why we should put the mortgage on the house for reparation. I want to set up a meeting for you, me, Nancy, Alvin [his son] and

A CROSS-BORDER WAR OF WORDS



Even the RCMP, unlike the FBI, is coming over the case

The successful prosecution of Alan Eagleson was the result of solid police work in both Canada and the United States. But far from being a cooperative triumph, the effort was plagued by competing, law enforcement agencies in a vicious war of words. Former RCMP staff sergeant John Beer, who headed up Canada's three-year investigation and now works as a forensic accountant in Toronto, is steamed at comments by his American counterparts, who make no secret of their contempt for justice Canadian-style. Because the FBI investigation began in December, 1991, and the RCMP's did not get going until January, 1993, an FBI charge of foot-dragging is a special sore spot. "Yes, we were a little slow at first," Beer says. "Would it do differently in hindsight, yes."

But once underway, he said, the Montserrat work was impeccable and Eagleson's convictions would not have been possible without the evidence they gathered in

Switzerland, Spain, England and Canada. As for the Americans' contribution? Beer claims disparagingly that when the RCMP and the FBI planned a joint fact-finding trip to air through Eagleson's Swiss bank accounts—as a result, at the time, provided by a U.S. grand jury witness—the Americans looked up the paperwork and had to cancel. That attitude infuriates FBI officials. "What did he think they based their search on?" snapped one. "It was our evidence."

FBI officials also say that they offered to run a joint investigation with the Canadians—but efforts at co-operation were disastrous. When the FBI alerted grand jury investigators from a witness they had subpoenaed, the RCMP asked for more of a search warrant—a public document. Under RCMP rules, he had no

choice, says Beer. And he also maintains that the Americans went on to mess up the investigation. In December, 1995, an extradition request to get Eagleson into U.S. hands. According to Beer, the 800-page request—accompanied by several volumes of evidence—was missing crucial information. U.S. prosecutor Paul Kelly, who sent the request, fully admits that the extradition request was incomplete—but that the Canadians just let it sit for two years. "We urged the Americans to get on it, but we heard nothing from them," Kelly says. "Nothing. Was it frustrating? Yes." Beer's response is icy. "Paul Kelly clearly indicated there was some tampering with the extradition process. I'm suggesting that there's a lot that has to be corrected in the Canadian justice department. Didn't act, it did it. The evidence didn't meet Canadian standards." Beer.

STEVIE CAMERON with JANE O'HARA in Toronto

another fairly accurate "to go over all my assets and liabilities."

By the summer of 1993, Eagleson had his plan in place and had liquidated \$1.25 billion worth of assets in his own name, and transferred \$1.3 billion or more to family members. Business associates, moreover, suddenly sold or refinanced \$1.1 million of the Montserrat real estate assets. Nobody knows where all this money has gone, although Conway and the FBI are looking into other Ontario property developments, as well as Florida and British Columbia. And between 1994 and the fall of 1995, when Eagleson accepted his plea bargain, he continued to transfer out a systematic and sweeping liquidation of tangible assets with one or two exceptions, practically everything that Eagleson owned has been

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WHAT MATTERS TO CANADIANS

CANADA

ment on the \$1-billion fee. Eagleson agreed to pay under his U.S. plan bargain. The \$385,000 balance was paid by cheque, presumably out of Canadian assets.

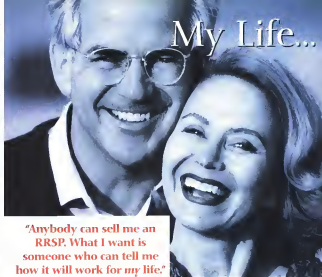
The married assets Eagleson still owns range from a \$95,905 loan to a land development project called Heritage Palaces Inc., located across the road from the former Eagleson cottage on Collingwood's Midway's Row, and a half interest in a Montreal charter, to a 25-per-cent share of the \$1.5-million golf course and, finally, \$525,000 of the \$2.1-million mystery mortgage. Family members have emerged overseas (there substantial luxury besides the Collingwood area firm that is pledged to the lawyers, the Eagleson children own two midtown Toronto houses, at 35 Edith Ave. and 3 Oswald Cres., that Jill Anne Eagleson and her sisters-in-law, Vanessa Margaret Eagleson, purchased for a total of more than \$500,000).

These properties are delinquent—on account for the \$115,000 interest-free mortgage provided by Nancy Eagleson to her daughter on the day Jill Anne bought her new house. An Eagleson family company, meanwhile, continues to own a house on a property known as the "holsey bar" near Buckingham Palace in London. The \$6-year lease was purchased in 1988 for a maximum of \$400,000. Nancy Eagleson has told friends and antique dealers that about decorating a new flat in London, but nobody seems to know whether this is the flat that Eagleson purchased for the convenience of his sports coach or if she is selling into a new, more fashionable address.

Eagleson's Collingwood acquaintances are unwilling to criticize him for putting so much money out of the area because they are convinced he is all but broke. "He's selling his assets to pay his bills, there's no question about that," said Peter Lenta, the local reporter who sold the waterfront cottage. According to business sources, Royal LePage Ltd. real estate agents enlisted to sell the Montreal development back in 1995 came away from meetings with the impression that Eagleson could no longer pay his share of expenses. It turns out, however, that these agents no longer feel sorry for him. In fact, they now rank among his potential creditors. After presenting the Montreal group with a \$5.6-million offer in the late summer of 1997, the professional brokers found themselves squeezed out at the last minute because Eagleson, Lenta and Cringleth had come up with a counter-offer—and, the real estate agents claim, identical—deal, except for the strange flip of the \$2.1-million vendor take-back mortgage. The upshot of all this is that Eagleson now faces yet another lawsuit, filed Christmas Eve in a Toronto court, in which the Royal LePage agents claim that the Montreal group stole their ideas and has cheated them out of more than \$500,000 in commissions.

With JAMES MCCOY in Toronto

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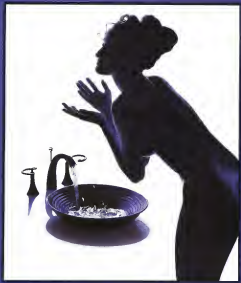
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Canada NOTES

RAPE SENTENCE DRAWS FIRE

Quebec Court Judge Monique Dubreuil created a storm of controversy by sentencing two Montreal men who raped a 19-year-old Haitian woman to 18 months probation to be served at home and 180 hours of community service. Dubreuil said the lack of regret shown by the two, both of Haitian background, is attributable to "a particular cultural context in regards to mistaking sex with power rather than a true sexual problem." Angry members of the Haitian community said the judge was condoning sexual assaults, and Dubreuil later said she made a mistake. The Crown said it will appeal.

ABORTION ANNIVERSARY

Abortion advocates marked the 18th anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision that decriminalized abortion and acquitted Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who had opened clinics in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg. Abortion supporters marked the occasion with a call for all abortions to be fully funded. A number of provinces currently require women to pay up to \$500.

BATTILING A DELUGE

Residents in and around Truro, N.S., face more than \$1 million in damage after two days of heavy rain dumped about 90 mm of water, causing the Salmon River and other waterways to flood parts of the city and nearby Shubenacadie. More than 180 people were forced to flee their homes. Roads were swamped and dozens of houses and businesses were flooded.

STILL IN THE DARK

About 100,000 Quebecers remained without electricity three weeks after a devastating series of freezing winds storms decimated Hydro Quebec's transmission lines. Most of the affected people were in the so-called "triangle of darkness" about 50 km south of Montreal.

BIG SPENDER FIRED

The federal cabinet fired Ted Westwell, the long-serving chairman of the Canada Labor Relations Board, after Westwell failed to get the Federal Court of Appeal to block his job move. Last December, Auditor General Denis Desautels said Westwell had abused his privileges by, among other things, submitting mail bills totalling \$748,982 over eight years.



STUDENT RAGE:

Toronto police remove demonstrators from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce offices after an overnight strike by 88 young people. They were part of nationwide demonstrations led by the Canadian Federation of Students, demanding the federal government drop plans to tie student loan repayments to income. The students, who also went provinces to freeze tuition, said the average graduate owes \$25,000 upon entering the workforce. In Winnipeg, protesters occupied the constituency office of Premier Gary Filmon, while in Toronto about 1,500 demonstrators descended on the city's financial district.

A boy's suicide

Following a Feb. 2 *Maclean's* special report, the Ontario coroner's office and the Toronto Catholic School Board launched separate investigations into the suicide of Kenneth Au-Yang, a 17-year-old student from St. Michael's Choir School in Toronto. Of special interest to both will be what part was played by Coast. Christopher Downer, an off-duty police officer and St. Michael's alumnus who was called in by a teacher—without notice to the students' parents—to instruct Au-Yang and the other students over a prank in the school yearbook (actual policy requires parental consent before anyone from outside the school instructs a student). Shortly after the inter-

view with Downer, Au-Yang jumped off a bridge, leaving a suicide note that read "Sorry for everything." *Maclean's* has since learned that during his stay at Au-Yang had asked for but was denied permission to call home.

Despite coroner Jera Cairns' and his inquiry has been given top priority and will be aided by two detectives from the internal investigations department of the Toronto police force. The police also announced that they have set up a hotline for anyone with information about Au-Yang's death. The Toronto Catholic School Board, which governs St. Michael's, St. Basil's and St. John's schools, was ordered into investigation because of concerns raised by many school parents. The TCSSB has asked Lloyd Blois, a retired Ontario Appeals Court Justice, to gather information from staff, students and parents.

Striking a green deal

To what appeared to be yet another concession to the provinces, the federal government signed the Accord on Environmental Harmonization in St. John's, Nfld., last week. Ottawa said that the pact, agreed to by all the provinces except Quebec, will eliminate duplication between the two levels of government, clarifying

which is responsible for matters such as air-quality standards, that some environmentalists accused Ottawa of shirking its responsibilities in the area, and, in fact, an all-party steering committee on the environment last December recommended against signing such an agreement after finding no evidence of overlap. The committee also concluded that the deal could decrease environmental protection.

Clinton's comeback

Despite the sex scandal, his public approval ratings soar

Q. What's the title of Hillary Clinton's next book?

A. *It Takes a Village—to Sanity my Husband*

Q. Why does Bill Clinton invite so many women into the Oval Office?

A. To show them the executive branch.

The jokes were coming thick and fast last week—most of them unprintable, most of them discarded, all of them once unfathomable to a president of the United States. But for the man at the uncomfortable center of allegations about sex and lies in the White House, the operating procedure was Romanesque. As usual, Bill Clinton shared into the television camera and daily, unapologetically denied that he had ever had "sexual relations" with Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern whose taped descriptions of one-on-one sessions with the President put outside the Oval Office at all the forefront of controversy. Then, at least in public, he resolutely went about doing his job. He delivered his annual state-of-the-union speech in Congress, pledging a string of measures from a balanced budget to expanded day care, then flew to the Midwest to sell his message far from scandal-obscured Washington. And, reminding Americans of another powerful crisis, he pointedly told Iraq's president Saddam Hussein that "you cannot defy the will of the world."

It was a brave performance and one that—sensationally—seemed to be working beyond almost anyone's imagining. Clinton's standing with American voters, as measured by recent opinion polls, topped the previous bill it had known as the first shock of Lewinsky's scandalbill. Then, it began to rise. By week's end, one survey, by ABC News, put his approval rating at a staggering 60 per cent—the highest it has ever enjoyed. While House officials, from loyal secretaries to senior aides, shed the air of despondency that hung over them when it appeared that Clinton was unable to fight back effectively "The mood around here is a thousand-percent better," a long-serving secretary on the White House staff told *Marion*. "What a difference a week makes." She added, "It's going to survive. The worst has passed."

Some political appointees even admitted to feeling somewhat



Clinton gets an ovation in Chicago, IL, as he presides at five days in, Lewinsky (left) answers questions

embarrassed that they had ever doubted the President. "Bill Clinton is the best thing that has happened in a long time," said one, "and Monica Lewinsky won't even make a footnote when the historians analyze his achievements." Even the President's political opponents seemed aghast by his apparent ability to endure the worst. "Felling new, damaging and provable revelations, it will help me," conceded a senior Republican senator, the chairman of a major committee. "It's not going to bring him down. There needs to be a certain passion in both parties to impeach a president, and this case has failed to generate that passion at this time."

All that, of course, could change—especially if Clinton is eventually shown to have had sex with Lewinsky, who is now 24. That is at the heart of the issue, in conversations secretly recorded by her confidant friend, Linda Tripp, Lewinsky graphically described having and sex with the President in the White House, beginning when she was 21. But when lawyers acting for Paula Jones, the Arkansas woman suing Clinton for sexual harassment, subpoenaed her in December, she denied any such relationship. Worse, she allegedly told Tripp, the man she called "the creep" and "this Big He" had urged her to drop the affair.

Despite the publicly spent mood, there were signs that Lewinsky's allegations have taken a toll on senior advisers and members of Clinton's cabinet. According to one senior White House official,



Defense Secretary William Cohen and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin have been particularly bothered by what they fear could have been a major ethical lapse by the President. Privately, said the source, many of Clinton's senior advisers believe at least some of what Lewinsky alleges, and think there was sexual contact between her and the President. "A lot of personal respect has been lost," he said. In order to work for Clinton, he added, aides must think of him as two distinct people. One is the politician with popular policies and welcome political goals. The other is the man with a deeply flawed character and appalling secrets.

Clinton began fighting back on Monday, when he issued an emphatic statement denying Lewinsky's story. With his wife, Hillary, at his side in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, striding the air with his right hand for emphasis, he found his eye on the cameras and said "I want you to listen to me. I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky. I never told anybody to lie, and I am a single man, never. These allegations are false." That was it—his aides insisted that he would have nothing more to say publicly because independent counsel Kenneth Starr is investigating the case.

But it left a host of questions unanswered. What type of relationship did he have with Lewinsky, a young intern only seven years older than his daughter, Chelsea? Why was his voice on her telephone answering machine at home? Why did he give her gifts, apparently including clothes and a copy of *Washington's Ladies of Grace*? What was she doing visiting him at the White House after her job there ended in April, 1997? Why, as the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* both reported last week, did she go to see him

with Lewinsky. Starr is a right-wing Republican who has long been accused by Clinton loyalists of bias in his conduct against the President, and Hillary Clinton added to that charge. "It's just a very unfortunate turn of events," she said, "that we are using the criminal justice system to try to achieve political ends in this country." Starr, in fact, is vulnerable to such attacks after four years and nearly \$30 million, he has managed to prove no charges against the Clintons in matters arising from Whitehouse.

Clinton continued his fight with a strong state of the union speech, then flew to Illinois and Wisconsin to sell his proposals to voters. There, he saw the first signs that his long-range approach was working: cheering crowds who had lined up for hours to see him, and only scattered protests or drawing attention to the embarrasing accusations against him back in Washington. No matter who holds the job, the presidency at a powerful spring for Americans, and even Clinton's political rivals clearly saw there was no room for the kind of national trauma that would go with firing a president out of office. "The American people—they do want to believe the President of the United States," noted Trent Lott, leader of the Republican majority in the Senate. "They don't want to see him be impeached or have to resign." Even the Democratic National Committee reported a surge in generous donations to the party from people anxious to support the President.

And Clinton—who has had a record of a good look over his career—got some more. An ex-lover of Lewinsky's, a drama instructor at her former college in Portland, Ore., emerged with a damning portrait of her. Andy Baker stood on his lawn with his wife,

in the Oval Office as normally as Sunday, Dec. 28, just 11 days after she received a subpoena from Paula Jones's lawyers. Just, perhaps most importantly, why did Vernon Jordan, one of Clinton's best friends and one of the most powerful lawyers in Washington, secure job interviews for her at *American Express* and *Revlon*—one day after she gave her version of events to Jones's lawyers in a sworn affidavit? To those questions, White House spokesmen offered only no comment.

It was left to Hillary Clinton to lead the offensive. In two television interviews, she once again played the role that has become all too familiar to her during earlier accusations of infidelity against her husband, the loyal wife standing by her man, defending her family from the threat posed by another woman. The allegations, she said, came as a shock to both her and the President. "You know, he woke me up on Wednesday morning and said, 'Isn't not going to believe this, but—' and I said, 'What is it?' And so, yeah, it came as a very big surprise."

Neither then nor should any light in the curious relationship between the most powerful man in the world and the young woman from California, however, sit wait on the attack. The allegations, she said, are part of a "vast right-wing conspiracy" that has been harassing Clinton for years. Chast among his enemies, she suggested, is Starr, the special prosecutor who was let off investigating the tangled Whitehouse lead deal scandals and has expended his probe into whether Clinton had under oath about his relationship with Lewinsky. Starr is a right-wing Republican who has long been accused by Clinton loyalists of bias in his conduct against the President, and Hillary Clinton added to that charge. "It's just a very unfortunate turn of events," she said, "that we are using the criminal justice system to try to achieve political ends in this country." Starr, in fact, is vulnerable to such attacks after four years and nearly \$30 million, he has managed to prove no charges against the Clintons in matters arising from Whitehouse.

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WORLD

Katly, and acknowledged that he had had a five-year affair with Lewinsky. Through their lawyer, Terry Gales, the Blenders described her as a schemer on the make who bedeviled Kathy Blister at the same time she was having sex with her husband. "They would say she is a young lady obsessed with sex," said Gales. "She certainly is no victim."

After she joined the White House staff, and was preparing to move to Washington, he said, Lewinsky bluntly told Blister that she planned to go to the White House and engage in sex. "She said 'I'm going to get my presidential knee pads.'" And once she was there, Gales said, Lewinsky phoned Blister and told him she was having an affair with a top White House official when she did not identify by name. But, said Gales, Blister did not believe her, Lewinsky had "a pattern of twisting facts, especially to enhance



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moving was
avoided

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her version of her own self-image."

That fits the picture of Lewinsky—"that woman," in Clinton's dismissive phrase—the White House would like to encourage. And it is one that may help explain why women, in particular, seemed to maintain their support for Clinton last week. One Democratic party pollster said in an interview that focus groups of female voters did not sympathize with Lewinsky as a young woman taken advantage of by a much older and more powerful man. Rather, they saw her as a "shark." Jennifer Lanz, a another Democratic consultant, described the feeling that way: "If there's anything one woman hates it's the idea of a younger woman going after a married man. It's terribly threatening. There's a big sister bonding element in this. Monica Lewinsky is really a very unappealing character. Women understand what Hillary Clinton is going through."

Other reasons for Clinton's support are more straightforward. Trouble in the United States have been going in the right direction for several years, producing what some analysts have labeled a "magic moment" of peace and prosperity. Growth remains strong, unemployment is below the post-World War II level, and even the rate of out-of-control births is down. If Clinton takes care of the nation's business as well, goes the reasoning, then most people will overlook her private business. "That's the Pinetown bargain we made with this guy," noted political consultant Bill Miller. "You take care of the Dow Jones—and we don't care what you do with Paula Jones."

Also anagnos to Clinton's aid was an understated backlash against the floundering of major coverage. A Washington research foundation, the Center for Media and Public Affairs, studied the amount of coverage during the first week of the scandal on the evening



U.S. plane on patrol in the Gulf: a warning to Saddam Hussein

news reports of the four networks (ABC, CBS and NBC), and concluded that the Lewinsky story was the media's "biggest leading fringe" over the week of Jan. 21 and 22, the networks ran 424 stories on the scandal—more even than the 100 they ran during the week following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, last August. To be sure, the public ate it up: audiences for the shows soared. But a CNN poll showed that 72 percent of Americans thought there was just too much Monica, compared with only 22 percent who thought the media got it about right.

And some of the more lurid stories rushed onto the air on this point in the hot heated days of the scandal turned out to be unverified. Many news organizations reported that Lewinsky had told Elizabeth Taylor on tape that she kept a blue dress stained with the President's semen. Lewinsky, not the story, would try to match it with her DNA. Starr's

office did seize some of Lewinsky's clothing, but her lawyer, William Gotsburg, flatly denied that such a dress existed. Another widely told story involved a Secret Service agent snatching Lewinsky and Clinton in a conspicuous position in the White House. The *Dayton Morning News* first reported that (leading to other stories), then retracted it, and finally attracted its retraction. The end result: confusion. The President got good news on the legal front as well. In Little Rock, Ark., the judge handling the Paula Jones suit excluded all evidence relating to Lewinsky from those proceedings. Federal Judge Susan Webber Wright, who also heard Jones's earlier appeal from call-

ing the President's Secret Service bodyguards to testify, ruled that evidence about Lewinsky "is not essential to the case issues" in the Jones case, which is to go to trial on May 27. Jones claims that Clinton exposed herself to her and asked her for sex in 1996, while he was governor of Arkansas and she was a lawless state clerk. The trial is bound to be another major embarrassment for the president even without disfigure Lewinsky's story into it, and his lawyer, Robert Bennett, labeled Wright's decision as a major victory. "That means we try the Paula Jones case and not the Monica Lewinsky case," he said. "That's huge."

The ruling left Starr overseeing grand jury proceedings in Washington. All last week, he summoned White House officials and others—including Clinton's personal secretary, Betty Currie, and his former chief of staff, Leon Panetta—to testify before the jury, which fits a function similar to a preliminary hearing in Canada. By week's end, Lewinsky's lawyers were still negotiating with Starr's office, trying to work out a deal that would give their client immunity from prosecution. Lewinsky, it was widely reported, was willing to say she

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Standing by her man—fiercely

Hillary Rodham Clinton is usually seen by the public in stage-managed settings where her handlers control the stage. Cool and poised, she photographs well. But in the harsh glare of the TV lights, she looked all of her 50 years last week as she left the U.S. Capitol following her husband's State of the Union address. Even the professionally applied makeup could not hide the wrinkles around her mouth and eyes, nor the almost transparent quality of the skin over her high cheekbones. "The scandals are taking a toll," said a Republican congressman. "But it's hard to feel sorry for her—she has the guts of Reagan."

Hillary Clinton has weathered more storms than a New Soviet day. Her friends have told interviewers she was aware Bill Clinton was having extramarital affairs even when he was attorney general and before governor of Arkansas in the 1980s. "Hillary Clinton knows her husband is a lecher," wrote well-informed New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd last week. "She knew it before she married him."

There were fiery arguments along the way, but she stayed with him, even appearing with him on the CBS program 60 Minutes on Super Bowl Sunday in 1992 to discuss their marriage after former lounge singer Gonzalez Flores was public. There was so much grit and guts in her performance that it was barely credited with saving Clinton as a presidential candidate.

Over the ensuing five years, Hillary has led the counterattack through a chain of scandals, from Troopergate, in which Clinton's Arkansas lodge guards talked about his wooing, through Whitewater, involving a suspect property deal, to what is now known as the Monica. In every case, Hillary has displayed remarkable public eloquence under pressure, even when Clinton's alleged scandals have involved her betrayal. She attacks her husband's critics with ruthless determination and intensity. White House insiders say that in private she has a terrible temper, which

even the President tries to stay clear of. Now, she is on the rampage again.

Showing little emotion, she appeared on morning television shows last week as an independent counsel. Kenneth Starr—a man she clearly hates with a passion—of conducting a political vendetta against the President. She went on to blame a "vast right-wing conspiracy" for the Monica Lewinsky scandal. Privately, White House

appointed his wife to oversee a major health-care initiative. But her high-handed approach played into opponents' hands, and her sweeping reform proposals were scuttled. She adopted a low profile, wielding her still heavy influence from behind the scenes. Only recently has she begun to emerge again as a frontline policy maker—this time deeply involved with childcare issues.

Instantly last week, Clinton's dealings with Lewinsky came under scrutiny, so did the nature of the relationship between Bill and Hillary. Both Clintons date on 27-year-old daughter Chelsea, now a freshman at Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., and at times she may have been the glue that kept them together. But close friends insist there is much more to this than that. They say that Hillary really loves Bill—and that Bill loves Hillary, as White House staffers put it, "as best as he is able."

At the same time, there have been ugly and ungracious remarks about Hillary. Only last week, Dick Morris, the Clintons' former chief political adviser who resigned after being caught with a prostitute in August, 1993, was asked why the President might have had a relationship with Lewinsky. Morris told radio station KABC in Los Angeles: "Let's assume, OK, that his sexual relationship with Hillary is not all that it's supposed to be. Let's assume that some of the allegations that Hillary sometimes not necessarily being into regular sex with men might be true."

Morris's uncharacteristic remarks may have more to do with his rumormongering with Hillary during his time in the White House than with fact. But they also seemed to demonstrate the reaction strong women like her can provoke. According to one biography, Hillary once told Arkansas buddy friend Carolyn Sawyer that she had never been attracted to quiet, well-spoken men. And then she pondered: "I wonder how history is going to note my marriage." Last week, many Americans were asking the same thing.

WILLIAM LOWMYER in Washington

Hillary leads the counterattack



The First Lady at a school last week she "knew her husband is a lecher," wrote Dowd.

sources stressed that the last thing Hillary wanted was for people to see her as long-suffering and in need of pity. But inevitably that happened. "The alternative," said Anita Blay, executive vice-president of the Independent Women's Forum, a Washington-based policy group, "is to see her as a kind of Lady Macbeth, as power mad."

There is no doubt she is obsessed with policy issues and politics. Educated at prestigious Wellesley College and Yale Law School, Hillary has a reputation as a brilliant lawyer with the analytical intelligence to match or even surpass her husband's. Since her early 20s, she has worked on government programs to improve health care, child care and family benefits. And while she has never stood for elective office herself, there is speculation that she intends to run for the Senate when her days as First Lady are over.

Not that she has always proved politically astute. Early in his first term, Clinton

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World NOTES

'BLOODY SUNDAY' PROBED

British Prime Minister Tony Blair launched a new inquiry into Northern Ireland's "Bloody Sunday" massacre of 1972, when British soldiers killed 13 Catholic demonstrators in Londonderry. Blair's decision was expected to buoy the Northern Ireland peace process, which has been badly undermined by sectarian murders of nine people since Dec. 27. Showing support for peace last week, thousands of Protestants and Catholics rallied in London across Northern Ireland.

ANTI-ABORTION BLAST

A powerful bomb exploded at an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Ala., killing an on-duty police officer who was moonlighting as a security guard and seriously wounding a clinic worker. Police say Robert Sanderson, with the sixth person killed in U.S. abortion-related violence since 1993. The aborted blast occurred a week after the 26th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

BIG TOBACCO CONCEDES

After years of denial, four executives of top U.S. tobacco companies admitted under oath that smoking is harmful and addictive may be addictive. Their admission came in hearings where they urged Congress to approve a \$100-billion settlement that would end class-action suits against the industry. Several congressional staff said they would oppose the deal if the executives failed to tell the truth.

AMERICAN FOR LITHUANIA

Fifty-four years ago, Valdas Adamkus fled to the United States as his native Lithuania was being absorbed into the Soviet Union. Last week, Adamkus, now a 73-year-old American citizen, was elected president. He had been back less than a year, but many voters hoped he would unite the country.

HOLY SHRINE BOMBED

Seven assailants in black were blamed for the bombing of Sri Lanka's most revered Buddhist shrine, in which 18 people died. The attack in the central town of Kandy damaged a temple housing what the faithful believe is a tooth of Buddha. Kandy was to be the site of the Feb. 4 celebration of 50 years of independence for Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon. But after the bombing, authorities moved it to Colombo.

A GANDHI CAMPAIGNS:

Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of slain former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, went to supporters in north India. Her recent emergence in campaign in national elections has galvanized the beleaguered Congress party, which dominated India under her husband, his mother, Indira Gandhi, and his grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru. Although Sonia, 51, has declined to run for a seat, her frequent speeches—in halting Hindi and English with a heavy Italian accent—draw huge turnouts in a nation still decelerated by the Gandhi name. Opponents accuse her as a "foreigner" (she is a citizen) but Congress workers call her "one of us." Rajiv was killed in 1991 by a Sri Lankan Tamil suicide bomber.



Turmoil seething at Japan Inc.

One of the gliding lights of the global economy was in deep shadow last week. Japan's finance ministry was once lauded for engineering the highly successful government-sponsored economic growth known as Japan Inc. But since the world's second biggest economy sank into stagnation in the 1990s, the powerful ministry's close connections with business have come under fire, and its strict austerity policies have been blamed for worsening the recession. Last week, Finance Minister Hiroshi Miawada was forced to resign to take responsibility for a scandal involving business payoffs to top members of the bureaucracy. But his replacement did little to bolster hopes

that Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto would deal more firmly with the country's economic woes and with the financial crisis gripping Asia. The appointment of Hiromasa Matsuyama, a former trade and education minister who began his career as a prosecutor, seemed aimed at the legal side of the ministry's cleanup, and the Tokyo stock market fell after he was named.

There was better news for a neighbor to South Korea. Furtiva banks arrived in New York City to refinance \$20 billion of the country's short-term debt. The deal was seen as a turning point in Seoul's efforts to stave off bankruptcy, and may become a model for deeply troubled Indonesia.

Russia's last czar is ready for final burial

The badly charred skeleton of an unidentified pilot in the Dniestr Mountains in 1994 may be the remains of Russia's last czar, Nicholas II, and his family and entourage, according to a high-level confession. It said DNA and other tests proved that the remains belonged to the czar, his wife, three daughters, a doctor and three servants, who were murdered by Bolshevik revolutionaries on July 17, 1918. The corpses of two other children were buried to kill at the site, scientists said, killed daughter Anastasia was among those killed. The confession said the remains should be interred alongside other members of the Romanov dynasty in St. Petersburg.

East Meets Best



The ski jump site at the Nagano ski area in Hakuba, the Olympic venues are spectacular

The panoramic view of Nagano is hardly a breath-taker. Visitors will not be riling a thesaurus to find new ways to gush over this midsize industrial city of 280,000, where neon lights and electrical cables were a prototype war far distance of the skyline, and the surrounding mountains often disappear behind the haze from smoldering backyard incinerators. The superlatives can be washed away to be put to better use once the acrobats of Winter Olympic sports descend on Nagano this week for their quadcentennial display of heart, skill, courage and, yes, sadly, the occasional show of petulance. But Nagano seen from a distance, it must be said right off, is not for postcards.

As hot to be up close, Nagano may not be made for solo shots, but close upshots over the charming touches that the sporting demands demand from places that aspire to be Olympic hosts. Up a cobbled footpath from Nagano's glass and concrete downtown, the magnificent 16th-century Zenkoji Temple crowns the city, offering both solace to Buddhists who make the pilgrimage and the glint of tradition that foreign visitors seem to require of Japan. The smattering of traditional Japanese houses and temples, so gentle on the eye amid the crush of video-screen billboards and flashy European-style boutiques, are reminders that Nagano was until recently a market town for the surrounding farms. If the architecture fails to convey that impression, the local delicacies will—everything from apples nearly the size of bowling balls, to barbequed noddles called *uota*, and *basako*—deliciously tasty slices of raw horse meat.

But Nagano's best asset may be the endearing eagerness to please of its city-sailing people. Nagano's organizing committee constantly attracts its volunteers that Winter sports that will be soiled at, so visitors this February are likely to get the full bear—even as they are being told they just missed the last bear. With

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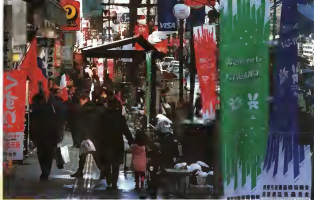


the Gaijin approaching, Nagano's craftswoman stide in best summer up by the Japanese phrase *omotenashi*—excellence increased by nervousness, and uncertainty about what all that scrutiny will bring. The people are aware their city lacks the sophistication of a metropolis like Tokyo, but appear determined to sprinkle their Games with the same magic dust that turned boy Lillehammer, Norway, into such an enchanting place four years ago. Nagano knows it will never be quite it. It will work for most of a crowd.

And there lies the seductive secret of the Winter Games. Unlike the larger Summer Olympics, which need a megacity to accommodate the sheer volume of events, the Winter Games can still be held along the back roads, as long as there is a mountain within reach and enough ice-making skill in the labor force to transform a risk. From Nagano's remoteness sprang its appeal. The Olympic city is now just 50 minutes away from Tokyo on the newly built shinkansen or bullet-train line, but decides away in attitude. "Sure, getting the Olympics means some of the old Nagano has disappeared, but you don't have to go far to find temples, old houses and rice paddies," says 43-year-old local resi-

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

Sleepy Nagano is set to host the world's top athletes



"Heart of Japan," because of its elevation, but it's really isn't everywhere. "It is often said by the people of Tokyo that, although Nagano is in the centre, it is really really out there," says Tetsu Hata, 66, a Buddhist monk, English teacher and ski instructor living in the satellite village of Minotsubashi, roughly 30 miles from Nagano. It is about to enjoy a moment as the centre of the world for about Japan. He sits under piles of blankets for warmth at a low table in his graceful house, drinking green tea, nibbling at chestnuts and savoring the vistas of the improvements that the Olympics have brought to Nagano. "This was always the best place in Japan for everything to catch on," he says. "We want to become part of the modern Japan."

This was not Nagano's first exotic bid for an Olympics. It was among the Japanese cities competing for the 1940 and 1952 Winter Games, both of which went to Sapporo. The Second World War cancelled the 1940 Games, and also left Nagano with an unsettling legacy. By 1944, with the likelihood of an Allied invasion of Japan growing, the government decided to withdraw from Tokyo with the Imperial Family for a last stand in the mountains just outside Nagano. Construction of a makeshift tunnel network was well under way when the Japanese surrendered a year later, by which time the 1940 Games had been brought over to build the decade ground. Nagano had

The athletes, and anyone, expect soup dispensers, reminders of slippery paths, and public restrooms

As the original eye, so much of Japan appears to pop right out of the Japanese sleek bullet train, winding machines functioning but set up in street corners, reminders of chirping birds placed into public washrooms, and about as much green space as the surface of a Subaru moon. It is a surprise then to discover that even among the fairly well-to-do of Nagano—these same richly Japanese whose government builds so much Canadian government debt—some leaders still warn

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A workaday city reveals its charms to visitors who take time to look closely

best Zenichi Oshino from his office at the base of the freestyle skiing venue he manages. Nagano has kept a balance between new and old, he insists. "The skisuitcase means people from Tokyo can now visit Nagano easily." Oshino intones. "It is also good they can go back the same day."

Nagano's hospitality may have time limits, but that shouldn't worry the 135 Canadian athletes who make up the country's largest contingent ever for a Winter Olympics. Seven days should be plenty of time, they hope, to land up on more precious racial than any Canadian team before them. Not only does the country continue to produce contenders at the individual sports, but Winter Olympic organizers keep adding new events at which Canada excels. In 1992, it was short-track speed skating and freestyle skiing's mogul event. Freestyle events were added at Lake Louise, while in Nagano curling and women's hockey should boost the Canadian tally.

It is easy to visualize Canadian fans already flicking off the expert of middle, there is 13th Stages for starters, speed skaters Cornelia LeMay Doan and Jeremy Warburton, the men and women curlers for sure, a couple more—herring gulls—on the short track, the bobsledders, maybe even a surprise on the slopes. And, of course, nothing less than gold for the two hockey teams, one case where Prime Minister Jean Chretien's advice that it's important to beat the Americans at any cost really means something. "Well, you know, we're not allowed to accept it, it's sort of overseas policy," says a key Canadian. LeMay, president of the Canadian Olympic Association, when asked if Canada will exceed the record 13 medals won in 1988 in Lillehammer. "And it's not a policy I adhere to," he says. "It will be definitely be our best Winter Games ever." And everything comes together, he adds, "it could be phenomenal."

That happens (and especially if the men's hockey team beats all corners at Canada's game), the name Nagano might someday ring of Canadian sporting glory. It is so and snow could become like the



Sol Yoshida: Delhi: Nagano needed someone with a real personality to do the selling job

Secret end of Moscow's Luzhiki Palace, where Paul Henderson slipped home the puck for the goal in 1972, or the finish line of the 100-m dash in Seoul—on, make that Atlanta. This remarkable Japanese city, hosting the northernmost Winter Olympics ever, where time differences mean the games, races and runs will happen when most Canadians should be sleeping, may become the place where Canadians finally show the world the joys of living in a refrigerator for half the year.

known, and many houses lack Western-style flush toilets. "This was a very typical old town and nobody cared about having boutiques or the downtown or wider streets," says Sachiko (Saki) Yoshida, 52, the Nagano-born, American-educated housewife who led the crusade to bring the Games to his home town.

So how is it that the conventionally hip followers of winter sports, such as Goro Tera and Lynn Crowl, will descend on a city that even the Japanese find a bit backward? Canada's bookies describe Nagano as "the centre of Japan" or the

door in cave has or from brutal working conditions.

The acceptance of the bid is still there. And Olympics after the next, a plaque finally went up to commemorate the Korean deaths—though not everyone in Nagano approves of the apology inscribed on it. "It was not a terrible, purposeful killing," says Hata, who can see the mountain that would have housed the emperor's family from where he sits. He calls the apology an "invasion." "What would have been the emperor's underground world now housing the emperor's family? The emperor's family still rule the region. Nagano sits on some dangerous ground the region also has four active volcanoes, one of which last erupted in 1980."

With Sapporo's 1972 Games the only other Winter Olympics ever held in Asia, there was an unspoken consensus within the IOC that 1998 was likely to be a reversion to the international date-line again. That effectively ruled out only Toronto, Salt Lake City (the American cry will host the 2002 Games), and from then on, Sol Yoshida. Mostly argues, it was his making that secured the Games for Nagano. "Nagano needed someone with a real personality to do the selling job," he says in his rapid-fire sales pitch, recounting how he convinced the world and ingrained himself with the International Olympic Committee's family IOC members privately agree that Yoshida and his engaging Minnesota-born, Tokyo-born raised wife, Carol, were effective lobbyists with the organization's heavily Western membership. "With the IOC, human relations is the key," says Yoshida with a laugh. "My friends at the IOC say, 'We didn't want to give the Games to Nagano. We gave them to Sol.'"

But if Yoshida showed what Western-style lobbying could do by winning the Games, the visited Japanese Su-



managing has taken control of Olympic planning since—with mixed results. (Glove even worry that the medieval Japanese style of decision-making is not suited to managing the modern, acute problems that can paralyze an Olympics—things like Atlanta's traffic snarl or pipe bombing at Centennial Olympic Park. Over at the freestyle skiing venue, manager Ushiki's business card even includes the title: Problem Solver. "The Japanese don't solve problems quickly—boom," he acknowledges, his usual verdict. "We like to resolve everything and come to a consensus so when the problem is solved, it is solved for good. Problems are like a tree in the road. My job is to move everybody around and under and through the trees."

Two problems have already emerged. There was a nasty tumble over where to locate the star of the downhill course after the international ski federation called the original run too steep. It turned out that the original line was at a higher elevation or else it would run the race somewhere else—like in Europe. But pushing the start higher meant intruding on a protected national park. Nagano organizers had pledged to make their Games a not a not entirely friendly, but other rolling over like people for answers. So developments like the new bullet-train line, which blasted through previous formalism on its way up from Tokyo, they drew their "green line" at the downhill. The skier finally prevailed, but feelings on both sides were bruised.

The other dispute arose over Big Hat, the hockey rink built to be the great convention center. It will become either the Games are over. The IOC wanted a 10,000-seat arena, not one of the massive monuments of the '98 Games, but the original Nagano design offered about half that. "I know people are saying the rink's too small," says Hama-

ing, visiting players to put on skis as they enter the rink. And the dressing room upstairs, so higher to accommodate the needs of Western hockey players standing on skates, provides little for the Japanese players sitting on the ice.

But the other sites are spectacular, and venue manager Maruyama, an architect by profession, is justifiably proud of Nagano's creations. He spreads his own photos of the facilities as a table to show off the beauty: the crossing steel problem in the Big Hat, the modernizing hockey's reliance on "strength," and the pretty woodwork that circles White Ring to make the beauty of the figure skating that will be held there. The venue were visited by junior high school students and they reflect the biggest of the English language in Japan. Aqua Wing for the retractable-roofed building where women's hockey will be played, Spar for the look-alike run in which two sections of the track run up and down the mountain, and the corner of the mountain where spectators sit to the green Games theme, and the spectacular M Wave for speed skating, whose circular roof

Notes to the garden in Matsuyama. We want to become part of the modern Japan.



Notes to the garden in Matsuyama. We want to become part of the modern Japan.

Nagano's Games will showcase a blend of old and new

id Maruyama, the assistant manager of the venue planning section. "That let me be very clear about that the IOC said us to think about our city's needs first. And Nagano can't say anything before."

The IOC's Guidelines, of course. "We weren't asking for the Saddlehorn, just a reasonably sized rink," says one of the officials. More plans have since been conceived into the site and design, but still the best hockey tournament ever held will be seen by just over 10,000 lucky souls, and many of the chance seats are reserved for dignitaries. Small crowds are not all that will draw players back to their near hockey days. Ten show events, per closing round will dramatically increase the time it takes to change from snow-sloped hockey gear into Armani. And the rubber pads had loosely over the concrete walkways to protect skate blades will attract coaches with visions of a Gatsby catching a skate in the gaps and visiting a lover. Hockey and its peculiarities remain a foreign concept at the land of mats and baseball. Only recently did some staff get into

is made from Nagano's Sochi larch, the same wood used in the famous Zenkoji temple. "We chose the wood because we wanted a symbolic link between Nagano's new Olympic buildings and the city's past," says Maruyama.

That there may just work. From the moment that a group of snow-covered middle into the opening ceremonies to symbolically purify the Olympic rings, the Nagano Games will showcase a blend of old and new, into the traditional with the cutting edge in sports. Sober, fast, TV-driven events like snowboarding and aerials will share a stage with the bathhouse, whose skunk-and-scented-diffusion built from Europe before the war. Curling, a sport with a long and proud history, will finally get recognition in the global village. The hockey rink almost should, for the first time, truly be of Olympic stature. And it will all play out against the backdrop of those great Nagano series, enough to bewitch athletes and spectators alike, enough perhaps, to turn an otherwise ordinary city into a magical state of mind. □

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Leaps of faith

BY JAMES DEACON

The interview session at a downtown Toronto hotel is over surprisingly quickly, leaving Elvis Stojko with only one more duty—a brief photo shoot—on his afternoon agenda. “I can go home for a couple of hours,” the skater says with apparent relief. Down time, both physical and mental, is at a premium with the gut-wrenching pressure of the 1998 Winter Games only a week away, and he anticipates a few minutes to himself as a harried executive might imagine a month in the Caribbean. In conversation, he is more remote than usual, perhaps because he is already in Nagano mode. Still, he fulfills his last obligation professionally—casually dressed in a black T-shirt and jeans, he is completely at ease in front of the camera, and he declares when the photographer asks if he wants any time to “freshen up” before the shoot. “The OK,” the skater says, a small hint of a smile turning up the corners of his mouth. “This is me.”

Figure skating is a form of expression, and Stojko is the sport's man of few words. Where so many competitors worry endlessly about appearances, Stojko prefers to just get on the ice and skate. “I sat out there trying to tell a story,” he says, but he could easily have lost to the demand for champion athletic brand of skating was roundly criticized by traditionalists who at first regarded him as too raw and unrefined. Nowadays, still without the old-guard endorsement yet still unapologetically Elvis, he is one of the biggest stars in the increasingly lucrative figure-skating galaxy.

As well, the 25-year-old from Richmond Hill, Ont., heads a skating team that takes to the ice in Nagano next week with both medal potential and future prospects. Steve-Lorne Bissmer and Victor Koznetsov, ranked No. 3 in the ice-dance world, go to Japan aiming to upset the heavily favored Russians. Up-and-comer Jeffrey Langford and veteran pair Kendy Sargent and Kim White hope their Olympic performances will establish them among the next generation of contractors. The team is embarrassingly without an entrant in the women's event—no Canadian finished high enough internationally to qualify. And in a controversial decision, the Canadian Olympic Association left 17-year-old Ennako Samaliev—the dazzling second-place finisher at the national championships—all the teams in this ground that has put record technically failed to meet their Olympic standards. But those absences will be forgotten if Stojko becomes the first Canadian to win the men's figure-skating gold medal. He is the reigning world champion, he has the touch

The private and public Stojko: I am beyond caring about what people think of my skating



Despite the politics and the judging, Canadians will still challenge for skating's highest honor

and he knows the competition. “Elvis has done all the work,” says his coach, Doug Leigh, who also guided Brian Orser a decade ago in Calgary. “And when he steps on the ice, he’ll be ready.”

Stojko, a gifted athlete with a penchant for hard training and a remarkable ability to tame out distractions, but he has not always been rewarded for his efforts. In Norway in 1994, for instance, he ended his martial arts-inspired long program, but Olympic judges—against the consensus of the audience—gave the gold medal to the more balletic Russian, Alexei Urmanov. Stojko has won over some doubters since then, and he has three world titles (1994, 1995 and 1997) as proof. “I still get mixed reactions,” he says of judging, “but I am beyond caring about what people think of my skating. I know what I have to achieve, and I know what excellence is to me.”

In Nagano, Stojko will skate against a drop and talented field, led by Russia's stylish Ilia Kulik and his countryman, Alexei Yagudin, and 1996 world champion Todd Eldredge of the United States. And Stojko knows that, all things being equal, the judges still prefer, say, the classically trained Kulik. To win, Stojko needs to skate a clean program that is technically more demanding than his competitors'—more jumps, better spins and looser footwork. He accepts that real-

ty, however unfair—he is a solitary soul who prefers singular accolades, such as the martial arts and riding cart titles. “Just in skating, breaking new ground, such as doing the first ever quad triple combination jump last year, in what people have excited. ‘I have always had to push a little bit more because I have always been the underdog,’” he says. “But I do all the things in my program because I can—I don’t do it just to win.”

Stojko will begin skidding his gold claim in Nagano with the most physically demanding short program he has ever skated. He has always made tough jumps look easy, landing them with the confidence of a pedestrian hopping off a curb, and that gives him an edge in the longer free skate. But his short program is built around clapping footwork and original spins designed to punctuate the pounding rhythm of Japanese folk drums. His music has three layers as it weaves between deliberate and frenetic, and when they stop after two minutes and 30 seconds, he is a tiredly spent. “This is good shape right now, and my legs don’t usually hurt when I workout,” he said, still sweating after performing the routine at the nationals last month. “But that program, it takes so much out of me.”

Will sweat and staying true to himself be enough? Stojko shrugs. “I have no concept over what happens with the judges,” he says flatly. Considering he is so close to the big event, he does not seem worried. “Why would I be scared of it?” he asks. “Too many people get in this position and hate it because they put too much pressure on themselves. I just want to enjoy the ride. It should be fun—it’s my dream, my career, and I’m going to handle it the way I want to handle it.” Part of him, he admits, is anxious for something beyond Olympic gold. “I want to be remembered as someone that made a difference, not just someone who came in and won a world championship or an Olympics,” he says. “I hope people see me as someone who gave back to the sport, who took it in a new direction and opened it up.”

The interior of the stretch limousine is heated up like a “fin de siècle” and on the choked streets of Manhattan, Bourne and Krutts are better off on bicycles. They have flown from New York City on a sunny Sunday in October to meet with Colin Dunn, principal dancer and choreographer for the internationally troupe Riverside. The cross-town trip from La Guardia Airport to the westside hotel takes forever in the whole-line limo, and by the time the skaters and Dunn get to the practice rink in suburban Rye, N.Y., their planned three-hour workout has been cut in half. They get straight to business: the skaters hope Dunn, a dark and intense Dubliner, can help them devise winning spins for the free-skate program they will perform in Nagano. Dunn does not know how to skate and often has exaggerated waltz-like limbo for his lessons. When he no longer can take dance and he no longer can, the skaters look exasperated. “Don’t worry,” he says. “It’s not important to copy exactly what I do—you just have to make it look like you’re doing what I do.”

While Dunn was talking about Bourne and Krutts, his comments applied equally to ice dance, an Olympic event in which very little is as it seems. The Canadians have reached into the top ranks since fir-



Riverdance has wowed audiences on three continents

along 10th at the 1994 Games, but their efforts to climb higher have been stymied by injuries as well as by talent. They are not naive—even for experienced competitors, understaffing ice-dance judging is about as easy as eating Jell-O with chopsticks. But last fall, at an event in Munich, they watched as judges from France, Italy and Russia handed out stacked five-plus medals to perennial world champions Oksana Grishuk and Evgeny Platov of Russia even though they fell during one of their routines. At a subsequent news conference, an American reporter stood up and blurted, "Can any of you people explain how a couple can fall down and still win?" He never got an answer.

That occasion prompted veteran observers to go public with charges of so-called block voting—judges agreeing in advance to give preference to certain teams. Several international judges complained to the International Skating Union, and Canadian ice-dancer turned-CBS-broadcaster Tracy Wilson pointed out during one telecast how the same trio of countries voted identically at other competitions as well. "I don't know what the impact will be," Wilson says. "But we do know that the ISU is at least concerned about it." Even if the judges are scrupulously fair, she says, Boice and Krasselt are hardly a lock for gold. "Nine times out of 10, Grishuk and Platov are the best," Wilson says. "But on the 10th time, they shouldn't be given the gold just because of their reputation."

Boice, 32, and Krasselt, 26, prefer to concentrate on



Nagano, of course. Krasselt's home is in North Vancouver and Boice is from Chatham, Ont., but they have been working non-stop at a training centre in Lake Placid, N.Y., with coach Natalia Dubova. They have dropped the lucrative tours and shows from their agenda. The extra work may not have shown up in their marks, but Grishuk and Platov have certainly noticed their improvement. The defending Olympic champions have tried to intimidate the Canadians at competitions by "crowding" them during practices when they share the same ice lane. Then, in December, Boice and Krasselt were loudly jeered by a woman at a news conference in Munich only to discover that the heckler was in fact Grishuk's aunt. "At first, it kind of startled me," Krasselt says with a shrug. "But then I thought, 'They must

Boice and Krasselt posing, and performing: They must really be worried about us'

really be worried about us.'"

That is not, however, the accomplishment Boice and Krasselt had in mind. They have always looked great on the ice, and they have a natural style all their own. But now, with more experience and Dubova's deft handling, they have matured, grown confident. With Riverdance, they have a missing component of a scoring program—it has wowed audiences at competitions on three continents. And it also ranks among the most technically challenging routines of any of the top couples. Maybe the judges will finally notice. "Who knows?" says Boice. "Maybe the Olympics will be different." ☺

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The world's top players take to the ice

BY BRUCE WALLACE

Bobby Clarke stands at the back of a Vancouver hotel reception room, silently watching dozens of reporters email ice hockey players who will put their good reputations on the line for Canada's Olympic team in Nagano this month. He told him, a TV set glows with highlights from the legendary 1972 Canada Soviet series, featuring a young, toothless Clarke in his playing days. If that first hockey summit between the Free World and the Evil Empire was another case of the Cold War fought by other means, then Clarke, with his infamous overhand chop that broke broken Russia forward Valeri Kharlamov's ankle, would arguably be Canada's first war criminal. Twenty-five years on, Clarke's leg has healed back and flashes a now-glamorous smile at the reporters. "People seemed to think it was OK, back then," he says, dismissing any current hot-bodding over the slash as so much revivified passion.

But the way that 1972 series still canonizes through the Canadian mind says much about the stakes in Nagano where, for the first time in Olympic history, the NHL will shut down regular-season action to follow the best and the fastest to play for their country. Undoubtedly, the pressure to win glows hottest on the Canadian. A nation that sponsored the sport, and for generations raised its hockey playing sons to dream only of lifting the Stanley Cup, has discovered since 1992 that nothing guarantees it more than watching its stars take the ice. And even before a mark is dropped in Nagano, Clarke has been feeling the sting of pressure: he is the Canadian general manager, the gambler who had to pick the team.

In a country where most guys (and some women, too) figure they should be general manager, Clarke's choices have come under more scrutiny than a lineup of prospective Supreme Court judges. No Mark Messier? Indefatigable Eric Lindros, captain of a team that includes natural leaders Wayne Gretzky and Steve Yzerman? And who is Rob Ramage, anyway? Actually, a pretty talented two-way forward playing in Tampa Bay, so says Canadian soccer world (and the criticism the same everywhere hockey is talked, from old-timers' dressing rooms to the incoherent madman at sports talkradio). Clarke's team is deep in thick necked, head-banging players about as creative as playmakers. It is true, they say, designed more to stand up to the brassy Americans who upset Canada at the 1996 World Cup—than it is to skate with the swift Swedes and Russians.

Nonsense, answers Clarke. "We took the players to cover every part of what can happen in a hockey game," he says. "It's not all wings or 50-foot scorers and it's not always the checkers who win far away—it's the combination. Our position is let the other teams worry about us." Maybe so, but there is enough talent throughout the Olympic hockey pool to suggest that there will be no easy games in this tournament—just ask Canada's national junior ice coach the Kazakhstan team that whipped them at in the world championships last month. Canadian stars and fans may be looking ahead to a Canada-U.S. final, but the Canadian players know they are not "I wouldn't risk the Swedish team any lower than Czech

do or the United States," says Yzerman through a cut lip.

One reason the Canadians are cautious in the widely held notion that Olympic gold is to European players win the Stanley Cup is to cement the true hockey goal. "We're not understanding the Europeans," says childhood power forward Brendan Shanahan, who looks like he could get excited talking about a piece of bell hockey. "The way we grew up viewing about the Stanley Cup, they grew up viewing about the gold medal."

Nagano marks the first time the Olympics will matter just as deeply to Canadians. Without the best players competing, Olympic hockey has always been a substitute to Canadian fans. Since Canada last won Olympic hockey gold in 1960, overmatched Canadian amateurs and fringe professionals valiantly went all. Winter Games after Winter Games, to play against the best Russians, Czechs, Slovaks and Swedes. Their predictable feisty wildman inspired young Canadian boys to dream of Olympic hockey play. "I watched it, yeah, but I never thought too much about it," says centerman Joe Sakic, one of the few Canadians whose collegiate talents can match the best Europeans. "It's a kid, I always wanted to play in the NHL."

And so it goes through the Canadian team. Yzerman recalls watching the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid, the miracle American upset of the Soviet ice in the semifinals, but cannot remember a silver. "Oh, I'd watch any kind of hockey," says goalie Martin Brodeur, who even grew up with

an Olympic medal in the house. His father, Dennis, played in the 1966 Canadian team that was a disappointing bronze. "But my dream was always the NHL." Perhaps the lack of interest in Olympic hockey is a North American phenomenon. Asked if he thinks winning the best NHL team in the Olympics is more satisfying, U.S. forward Keith Tkachuk replies, "What is it—a every four years?"

It is still accurate whether the experience of sliding down the NHL for the Olympics will become a regular event, although league officials may not be able to resist the shot at prize-money promotion provided by the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City. But—Tkachuk's confusion aside—the elite players certainly seem to like it. "It is a great honor to put on the yellow jersey and play for your country," says Swedish forward Daniel Alfredsson. "Olympic gold is one of the biggest things you can win."

And hockey fans who have nurtured dozens of legions, light-checking NHL games that make this one of the dearest seasons in memory, will be able to lean forward in their seats for a look at which country's style of hockey comes the day. The Swedes are counting on the bigger Olympic star surface to prove the superiority of their emphasis on quick skating and puck control. The Americans will say "yes, Alberto!" The Canadians will think they have to hit our skill guys, but it will be tough to make the big hits with all that age on."

The age team reflect the state of their national programs as well. The Russians, for example, will have great talent but are in organizational disarray. Some of their best players either were not asked to play, or chose to sit out. "I'm going to watch the Olympics on television, instead of a great tournament, and not for Russia," declares Steve Francis, says similarly. The great, two-time Olympic gold medalist but says he was not invited to play. Meanwhile, the Americans are determined to prove they are a true hockey power, that their World Cup win was no fluke or the result of a hot goalie. "When it comes to getting down to business in Nagano, we won't be saying 'Hi to the Canadians,'" says the American Tkachuk, who has helped Canadian fans with suggestions that their days of hockey supremacy are over.

To Canadians, that World Cup loss was the greatest American threat to Canadian honor since, say, the American invasion of 1812. "We feel a responsibility to avenge the World Cup and we have a chip on our shoulders," says Lindros, who is counted on as a score goal as well as to play with his usual gritty bear temperament. Yzerman agrees. "There's not much tolerance for second place in Canada," he insists, though a more sanguine Clarke warns, "If you're going to compete in tournaments, you're going to lose sometimes." But it is hard to see how hockey fans can lose. Nagano will showcase the sport's global elite, all in one-season form, playing on a big ice surface for legions of rights. There will be no home crowd. Excitement can be checked at maximum. "The pure spectacle of the Olympics is something unique," gushes Shanahan, one of the best salesmen for the sport. "It's something that will be something." For rival Canadian fans, at course, real disappointment will be gold.



The two captains—Lindros and Wayne Gretzky at the 1998 World Cup (far left), not much relevance for second place

One game, for gold and history

BY JAMES DEACON

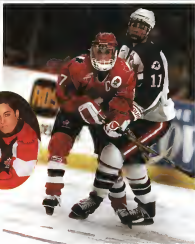
The women behind the masks of Canada's Olympic hockey team file out of their GM. Their dressing room in their street clothes, their hair not set, some spicing fresh hair cream or carrying top coats. The bus is taking them to their Vancouver waterfront hotel has not arrived, so they are only prepped for photographers and reporters on Feb. 14-January night. Off to one side, goalie Miroslav Ruzicko stands in the light of a TV camera, doing an interview with Radio-Canada. High-scoring forward Hayley Wickenheiser, widely regarded as the best player in the

women's game, is surrounded by another cluster of reporters. But overall, it is a strangely quiet considering Team Canada has just finished debuting the archaic Americans in a 2-1 win after its first of 1984—the largest crowd ever to witness a women's hockey game. "We're the only...the celebratory whistles and banners, the passionate party!" It's not that we are not happy—we are," explains Miroslav Ruzicko, a 1992 winner from Brantford, Ontario. "But this is not the game we are all together to win."

For Team Canada, there is only one game. The players, head coach

Sherron Miller and assistant coaches Danielle Sauvageau and Roy Bennett have been focused on Feb. 17—the date of the women's gold-medal hockey game at the Big Box in Nagano—since training camp opened in Calgary on Sept. 8. It's not difficult to imagine that Canada will get there—the women in red and white have won four straight world championships on the way to this first-ever women's Olympic hockey tournament. And despite a rapid improvement in the level of play by the Finns and Chinese, the United States is by far the best of the rest. In fact, the two top teams appear to be dead even—the Canadians and Americans played 13 exhibition matches during their Olympic preparations, and Canada narrowly won the series 7-6. And while both sides tactically avoid incendiary remarks, it is clear there is no love lost.

"We respect the Americans," Miller says correctly, "but do we like them?" She pauses. "Not really." While the Canada U.S. rivalry is the main story line in women's hockey, Miller will attract her share of the Nagano spotlight. The 35-year-old native of Melbourn, Sask., is the only female head coach in the tournament, and other countries are watching with interest. Miller deflects attention away from the gender issue because it just adds expectations to an already high-pressure job. "It's not about me," she insists. "It's about women's hockey, about women making strides, and I am one of those women." Besides, she says, she was not hired because of her gender.



PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL J. SMITH FOR THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Canadians and Americans appear to be dead even

"Canadian Hockey said they wanted the best coach, not the best man or woman," she says. So far, so good. She was an assistant on the 1992 and 1994 world championship teams, and since she's named head coach, her teams have won every sanctioned International Hockey Federation tournament she's coached.

As a player, she earned the nickname Killer Miller, and in real life she is a nine-year veteran of the Calgary police force. She can handle the kick of a .44 Magnum, and from her work as a cop, she knows there are worse things to fear than losing a hockey game. She is not likely to cave, angling if her team falls behind by a goal in the third period, and neither, she insists, will her players. Still, she will get tough if she sees her team falter. "I am not afraid to bring the hammer down," she says bluntly.

Miller got broad support from inside the dressing room when Canadian Hockey was still deciding who to hire as the full-time Olympic coach. And she weathered her controversial decision to drop scoring star Angela James from the Olympic roster (Miller contended James was a defensive liability, and that was her job)—which Canadian Hockey denied—that a top official on the team was having an affair with one of the players. In

the weeks leading up to the most important tournament of their lives, the players might really have been divided by the issue. It didn't happen. "If anything," says captain Stacy Wilson, "we are closer now as a team."

That team has the counterparts to win—power and power in Calgary's Wyndel-viewer and Winter's Jester, Peter Bortolotto, still a go-to guy from Lesley Bortolotto of Fredericton and Rhinoceros of Charlottetown, Que., and from the depth on the bench. And it has leaders such as Wilson of St. John's, N.B., and 38-year-old France St-Louis of St. Hubert, Que., who in Vancouver blocked a slapshot with her unadorned palm, had to be helped off in obvious agony and was back on the ice for her next shift.

Miller, meanwhile, is the long-range thinker and motivator. Talking a break in Vancouver, she already has already written some of the pre-game speeches she will give at her team goes to the gold-medal game on Feb. 17. She has even made notes about what to say between periods of that game. "A big part of it is about making history," she says. "I think—I hope—that the players can find extra energy, extra emotion, extra discipline. Extra anything to write that ending to the way they want to go that far, even if they wear gold instead of silver." There, the undeniable fact: that is one case where silver just won't do. □

Canadian captain
Wilson dating
Sgt. Howard A. J.
McCauley; Miller
Smith: I am not
afraid to bring the
hammer down

Macleans



Nagano Diary

A Canadian Guide to the 1998 Winter Games

FEBRUARY 7-22

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

1 In Karuizawa, Sandra Schauder of Russia and **Michelle Hulse** of Great Britain, begin their respective campaigns for victory and with matches against American rivals in preliminary action.

2 At the White Stag arena, Canada's two girls teams—**Kristy Seymour** and **Kira Weir**, and **Mara-Clairie Saunders-Guyon** and **Luc Boudet**—will start their short program against the Russian four of **Marina Eltsova** and **Andrei Butko**.

is only his second season on the national long-track team, **JEREMY WOTHERSPOON** of Red Deer, Alta., has rocketed to the top of the speed-skating world. While he had been considered a hot prospect, no one at speed-skating Canada predicted Wotherspoon would start the current World Cup season with four victories, sweep the men's 500-, 1,000- and 1,500-m events at the Canadian Olympic trials in December, and set a new world record in the 1,000 m. There is more. "I still feel it is possible to go faster," he says. And that is likely what it will take to win gold at the skating oval in Nagano, where he will face other top contenders **Masaaki Hara** of Japan and **Lee Kyu-Hyuk** of South Korea.

THE CLAP SKATE

The revolutionary Clap Skate blade design has helped speed skaters shave seconds off previously unbreakable world records. Invented in Holland more than 30 years ago, the design did not gain acceptance in the skating world until last year. The skate is hinged at the toe of the boot so the blade lifts at the back of the skate, which decreases drag by increasing the amount of time that the blade remains on the ice.



DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

1 Italian skier **Deborah Compagnoni**, the prohibitive favourite, tries to repeat as Olympic champion in the women's super giant slalom.

2 At the ski-jumping venue of Hakuba, **Masahito Harada**, one of Japan's best medal hopes, will compete in the 60-m event.

3 At the M-Niseko skating oval in Nagano, long-track speed skater **Regina Lysa** of Ukraine takes on world record holder **Gunda Némethy-Bilincse** of Germany in the women's 2,000 m.

SPOTLIGHT

On the slopes of the Inazawa Kogen ski area north of Nagano City, **JEAN-LUC BRASSARD** of Valleyfield, Que., competes in the freestyle men's moguls and knees off what could be the start of a Canadian freestyle-skiing gold rush. This team is so strong that Brassard, the defending Olympic champion, may get his toughest challenges from **Stephane Rochon** of Laval, Que., **Dominik Gauthier** of Leno, Que., and **Ryan Johnson** of Calgary.



GLOSSARY

The introduction of snowboarding to the Olympics also takes snowboarding jargon out of the X-Games mixtape and into the mainstream. Some examples:

Freestyle: refers to performing tricks and manoeuvres in the half-pipe or on a slope.

Half-pipe: a snow-covered shape like a pipe cut lengthwise.

Reggie's-footed: riding a snowboard with the left foot forward. A rider is "reggie-footed" when the right foot is forward.

Ball (or pack or crater): fall down.

Boots: catching air off a jump.

Gnarlies: a fast and tight rotation.

Fakie: riding backwards.

Inverted aerials: when the rider is upside down in the air.

360: a single complete rotation (720 entails two complete rotations, and so on).

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

1 Norwegian king of the hill **Torge Myrnesen** is expected to lead the freestyle giant slalom of the International Olympic Committee members. That leaves the gold so far going to the snowboarders, including **David Cavallone** of Mont Tremblant, Que. The women's event is less controversial, but less competitive. Calgary's **Tony Tapan** and Vancouver's **Natasha Sunk** will challenge American **Sharon Dawe**.

2 At the M-Niseko, speed skater **Neal Marshall** of Coquitlam, B.C., hopes to overcome a season-long battle with knee-injured skaters to win a spot in today's 1,500-m competition. Marshall was the World Cup champion at 1,500 m in the 1994-1995 season. **Karen Overland** of Calgary, **Jenny Wetherup** of Red Deer, Alta., and **Sharon Diez** of Ottawa are the other Canadians in a field led by **Krista Putina** and **Iris Fontana** of Holland.

At a five-kilometre classic race in Italy in mid-December, **HEIDI S-COTT** of Vancouver, Alta., did something few Canadian women has done in a decade—she cracked the top 10 at a World Cup cross-country ski race, with an eighth-place finish. Although Scott, 25, is the only Canadian woman competing on the World Cup circuit this season, she will not be alone in Nagano. **Sara Renner** of Canada, Alta., and **Melanie Theriault** of St-Jovite, Que., also qualified for the Olympics in the five-kilometre and 15-km classic events, and the 10-km pursuit and 30-km free events. The race today is the 10-km pursuit, and the favorites are **Bente Mathisen** of Norway and **Larissa Lazarenko** of Russia.

KANBAYASHI PARK

The alpine resort at Yamanashi Town, in the Higashidate and Yakebata mountains, hosts the slalom and snowboarding events. The first ski resort in the area dates to 1921. Today, the best known is Shiga Kogen, one of the largest ski centres in the world, attracting five million visitors annually. The snowboard half-pipe event is held in the Kanbayashi Snowboard Park in Yamanashi Town and the snowboard giant slalom and alpine slalom events will be at nearby Mount Yakebata. The Yamanashi area also boasts nine outdoor hot springs.



DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

1 **Isak Puchner** of Edmonton competes in the men's super-G race in Hakuba, but it, like the downhill, is considered an afterthought. Led by **Stefan Ederbauer** and the ubiquitous **Heinrich Mauer**.

2 In women's hockey, Team Canada plays Finland in Karuizawa Town, both Canadian risks continue round-robin play in Tokyo.

SPOTLIGHT

Five years can be a lifetime for an athlete. **KATE PACE-LINDSEY** was only 23 when she claimed the world downhill championship at Maribor, Slovenia, Japan, in 1993. The North Bay, Ont., skier went on to complete 10 top five finishes, including two firsts, by the 1995 season. Since then, however, Pace-Lindsay has been plagued by a series of major injuries, and she enters her second Olympics in a prolonged slump. But she remains one of the great gliders on the circuit, which should give her a fighting chance when she barrels out of the gate in tonight's women's downhill (although it is scheduled for Saturday, it will be televised Friday night in Canada because of the time difference).



THE BIG HAT

The Big Hat in Nagano is one of two hockey venues and the site of the women's final. Named for the profile of the roof, the building is glass, steel and concrete on the outside, while the inside features visible steel beams and perfect sight lines. The arena has a retractable roof that will be used in summer when the building is turned into an outdoor swimming pool. The second hockey venue and site of the men's final is the Aqua Wing in central Nagano.

CRC: 12:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m. (except 8:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m., 3:00-5:00 p.m., 7:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. 2 a.m.)
CBB: 12:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:11 p.m. and 11:35 p.m. 2 a.m. (all times EST)

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

- Canada's curlers begin their medal pursuits in Kamloops, B.C.
- At the Spiral in Nagano: Pierre Lueders takes the first of two runs in the biathlon bobbing competition.
- On the slopes: Kalle Paavola-Lindqvist of North Bay, Ont., hopes to regain her world championship form in the women's downhill, but Katja Seisberger, a six-time winner on the World Cup circuit this season, is the favorite.
- In hockey, Canada's women play the United States, and the men take on Sweden.

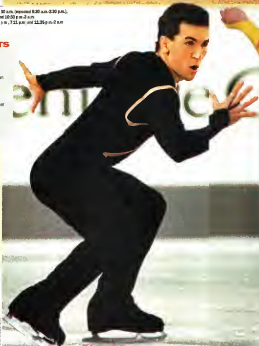
SPOTLIGHT

ELVIS STOLKO can do in Nagano what no other Canadian has ever done—win gold in men's figure skating. The 25-year-old from Richmond Hill, Ont., is the best jumper and the most consistent performer in the sport, and when the competitive clouds today, he will likely unleash his trademark quadruple toe loop. But the three-time world champion is no show-off. The contenders include American Todd C. Driedge and two Russians, 1997 European champ Alexei Yagudin and Ilia Kulik, each of whom has the talent to win—if they handle the crushing pressure of an Olympic final.

THE SPIRAL AT MOUNT IIZUNA



The Spiral bobsleigh and luge track was constructed in an 18-hectare wooded area near Mount Iizuna, located on the northern boundary of Nagano City. The track follows the natural topography and has two unique uphill sections. The ice on the track is monitored in 25 places to ensure a constant temperature.



Red may be the traditional Valentine's Day color, but **GABRIELLA LEMAY DOAN** would prefer gold in 1998. The world's top female sprinter this season and holder of the 500-m world record, LeMay Doan is the favorite at the 14th Winter in the 500-m speed-skating final. In fact, she is a triple threat: the 27-year-old from Saskatoon has dominated the 500 m, holds the world record at 1,500 m and is the World Cup points leader over 1,000 m. And after breaking her own 500-m record in December, she told reporters: "I made a couple of mistakes—I can still go faster." Today, she and 1994 silver medalist Susan Auch of Winnipeg battle American Kathy Witte in the women's 500-m final.



THE WHITE RING

Built on the site of an ancient battlefield, the White Ring arena features a roof designed to look like a droplet of water. It is the only indoor facility to host two sports—figure skating and short-track speed skating. The building rises nearly 40 m and its rounded stainless-steel panels are designed to symbolize the grace and beauty of figure skating. Temporary refrigeration equipment will be removed after the Olympics and a wooden floor will be built to convert the White Ring into a gymnasium.





SOMETIMES IT'S HEALTHY TO

REMIND OURSELVES WHY

WE TAKE UP SPORT

IN THE FIRST PLACE

INTRODUCING A PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN GENERAL MOTORS
OF CANADA AND THE
SPIRIT OF SPORT FOUNDATION.

It goes back to childhood. Kids begin sport for the camaraderie and the fun. There's also the inner joy that comes from making that perfect basket, making a pinpoint pass, or scoring a hard-earned goal. As a parent, teacher or coach, you've probably seen the outward expression of that joy. You've shared in the feeling yourself.

But somewhere along the way things can change. A child's inner joy can be over-ridden by the pressure to win, the need to win at any cost. For some, anything less than first is failure. Attractions is covered only on the outcome as athletes are measured by the colour of their medal and not the quality of their effort. For them, the value of the game itself has been lost.

Fortunately, the satisfaction of giving your best isn't limited to the elite few who win medals. It's something everyone can enjoy. And a value we at General Motors very much embrace. That's why we support enthusiastically the Spirit of Sport Foundation in its efforts to help everyone rediscover the personal rewards at the heart of every sport.

WHAT WE'RE DOING.

With more than 65 sports organizations behind us, and the involvement of many of Canada's best athletes, the Spirit of Sport Foundation with General Motors has embarked on important education programs that promote fair play and excellence. Our goal is a new brand of sport that values true and honest competition.

Our "Training of Trainers" initiative sends high-performance athletes and coaches into communities to deliver motivational speeches on the spirit of sport.

"Arena" is a training kit that provides sports associations, teachers and community groups with the tools to develop and implement their own sustained programs.

Our video "Catching the Spirit of Sport" has been shared with coaches, schools and teams nationwide to help leaders learn positive ways to build self-esteem in kids.

"This video is a must-see for all coaches and parents with children in sport," says Olympic gold medalist Mark Tewksbury.

Young, aspiring competitors also have the opportunity to discuss with accomplished veteran athletes aspects of sport such as handling pressure and overcoming obstacles through our "Missing Program."

Throughout the year the Spirit of Sport Wall Tour visits schools and shopping malls across Canada. Top-level competitors are on hand to share their values. And you have the chance to sign your name on the wall in support of Canada's best on the road to Nagano or other major events.

WHAT YOU CAN DO.

First, every parent, coach or teacher plays a vital role in setting examples for children in sport. By stressing positive values, you can show young athletes that honesty and respect are part of winning as are doing one's best and having fun.

If you see a need for one of our programs in your community or would just like to know more about General Motors and the Spirit of Sport Foundation, we invite you to call 1-800-463-7483. Or visit our web site at www.gmcanada.com

SOME OF CANADA'S BEST WHO
EMBRACE THE SPIRIT OF SPORT:

Jeff Adams	Gérin Bocher
Nathalie Lambert	Caroline Olivier
Tanya Dubnicoff	Charmaine Crooks
Pierre Lueden	Robert Emme
Colleen Miller	Bobby Orr



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DAY 15
FEBRUARY
 CBC: 5:50 a.m. (repeats) 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 1:34 p.m., 7:11 p.m. and 12:30 p.m.-3 a.m.
 CBS: 4:45 p.m., 8:15 p.m. and 10:55 p.m.-2 a.m. (all times EST)

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

The curling finals will both be played today at Kasugakori Park Arena in Karuizawa Town. Seodae Schneider's Rights rink and Mike Harris's quartet from West Hill, Ont., want to be Games gold medal favorites—Schneider is a three-time world champion, while Harris had to defeat several world champions to win the Olympic title in Brandon, Man., last November.

Canadian skaters Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz perform their original dance "Bumble-Muscle" Edward defends his 7.5-kin title

PIERRE LUDERS

is the dominant pilot on the World Cup two-man bobsleigh scene thanks to his powerful starts and precise driving. Today, the three-time world champion will take on the Spirit, a truck built into the hulls of Mosler litrons just north of Nagano. Lunders won three different bobsleams in his first three World Cup wins this season, and once now he may not decide between Kim Leifsson of Ottawa and Charlotte-town's Dave MacEachern until just before the event.

NICK SPILLAS/AGF



KARUIZAWA TOWN

Olympic curling takes place at Kasugakori Park Arena in Karuizawa Town, 90 km southeast of Nagano City. Sitting at the foot of Mount Asama, Karuizawa is a popular summer destination—every year more than eight million visitors flock to the area to play tennis and golf, and view the abundant wild life, including more than 130 different species of birds. Karuizawa hosted the equestrian competition at the 1964 Tokyo Games, making it the first city in the world to host events for both Winter and Summer Olympics.



CHRONICLE

DAY 16
FEBRUARY
 CBC: 5:50 a.m. (repeats) 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 1:34 p.m. and 7:11 p.m.
 CBS: 5:45 p.m., 8:15 p.m. (all times EST)

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

Men's and women's freestyle aerial competition gets underway at the Nagano Roppon ski area on the outskirts of Nagano City

Team Canada plays the United States in what could be a preview of the men's hockey final

Canadiana Kathryn Bow and Garry Swislock take to the speed-sliding oval again for preliminaries of the women's 1,500-m event

SPOTLIGHT

Five-time Canadian champions and world bronze medalists **SHAE-LYNN BOURNE** and **VICTOR KRAATZ** skate their infant new freestyle routine tonight, but it may not be enough to propel them to the top of the Olympic podium. The competition is extremely tough, and there is mounting concern that some countries' judges are "black voting" in support of Russian champion Oksana Domok and Yegorv Platon. "I feel that sometimes the results are already decided before the competition," said Natalia Dobova, Bourne and Kraatz's Russian coach.



PETER MACDONALD

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE



THE M-WAVE

Set among rice paddies and apple orchards, the M-Wave speed-sliding oval features an M-shaped roof that rises in increments to mirror the mountain range that provides its backdrop. Architects have borrowed heavy traditions



BY PETER SPILLAS

Japanese design by giving Asia's largest torii roof the look of Japanese tatami. But the state-of-the-art arena also features 10,000 heated seats that can be reconfigured in 10 different arrangements for assorted sports at the foot of a peak.

CBC: 12:45 a.m., 4:45 a.m. (Nagano women's preselected hockey game and either repeated 9 a.m., 5 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (All times EST))

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

Smart track speed skating begins at the White Ring in Nagano City. Canada will be without 1994 silver medalist **Nathalie Lambert**, who tore ligaments in her ankle in November, but the talent pool is deep on this team. Today, **Marek Ragnow** of Montreal will skate for gold in the men's 1,000 m, as will the women's relay team featuring **Nathalie Lambert** of Montreal and **Annie Perreault** of Rock-Tenn. Also today, speed skater **Jeremie Blanchard** of Quebec and **Sylvain Brissaud** of Quebec will skate in the 5,000-m superclassic final.

BY JEFFREY HUGHES



They are hardly household names and most work at regular jobs to support their athletic pursuits. But the members of Canada's women's hockey team left for Nagano with great expectations. The team has won four straight world championships, and it would take an epic upset for the Canadians to not make today's gold-medal game. Yes, the team was shaken somewhat by a loss to the U.S. at the U.S. Women's Hockey Tournament in December. And the much-vaunted team chemistry was sorely tested when forward **Angela James** challenged coach **Shannon Miller**'s decision to leave her off the Nagano roster. But the Canadian squad remains formidable. Led by star forward **HAYLEY WICKENHEISER** of Calgary and captain **Stacy Wilson** of Salisbury, N.B., Team Canada hopes fans will get to know their roster with their helmets off and gold medals around their necks.



Canadian forward Laura Schuler in action against the United States

THE SOUTHERNMOST GAMES EVER

The weather could be a big story in Nagano. In February, the region is prone to sudden changes that can bring anything from fog and rain to blizzards and high winds. More ominous, meteorologists predict the El Niño effect will cause warmer-than-normal temperatures. Nagano is the southernmost Winter Olympics location and, in mid-December, puffed rocks and mud were still visible on the downhill course at Hakuba. But winters eased somewhat in January when the area was blanketed by several snowstorms.



AP/WIDEWORLD

CBC: 12:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. (repeated 9 a.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (All times EST))

Thomas Gröndl of Austria competes today in the men's giant slalom or World Cup slalom in Yamaguchi. In November, Gröndl became the first Canadian to place in the top three at a World Cup giant slalom race. Switzerland's **Michael von Grunigen** is one of the previous favorites, but charismatic Italian star **Alberto Tomba**, a three-time Olympic champion, will demonstrate occasional flashes of brilliance, winning a World Cup race last month. On the ice, meanwhile, the men's hockey tournament begins quarter-final play at the Big Hat.

SPOTLIGHT

Gröndl goes into today's freestyle aerials with a chance to sweep the men's medals, and the women could take two medals, too. **NICOLAS FONTAINE** of Magog, Que., and Andy Capstick of Toronto and David Bellemare of Montreal left no room on the squad for aerials veteran Lloyd Langston, a two-time world champion and 1994 Olympic bronze medalist. Fontaine is renowned for the most difficult repetition of jumps ever seen on the freestyle circuit. On the women's side, Vancouver's **Vanessa Brown** of Shannon, Ont., was last season's overall women's champion, and Caroline Ollivier of Cap-Saige, Que., currently sits in third place in the World Cup standings behind Brown and leader **Nikki Stone** of the United States.



AP/WIDEWORLD



APPLES AND INDUSTRY

Sitting at the junction of the Chikuma and Sai rivers, Nagano began as an agricultural town known mainly for its apple and peach orchards. Since the Second World War, high-tech companies such as Seiko-Epson, Fujitsu and Olympus have moved into the area because the region's clean air and fresh water are important in the production of sophisticated electronics.



AP/WIDEWORLD

CBC: 12:45 a.m., 4:45 a.m. (repeated 9 a.m., 5 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (All times EST))

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

Canada's Catherine Lefley Down returns her rivalry with American **Cheryl D'Amico** in the 1,000-m long-track speed-skating final. Nasty bout Lefley-D'Amico in world-record time at a meet in December.



ISABELLE CHAREST, the world-record holder at 500 m, leads a powerful Canadian women's short-track speed-skating team into today's 500-m final. The 27-year-old Montrealer was a silver at Lillehammer, and it proved to do even better despite the deep field in Nagano. "The Chinese and Koreans are very strong," she says, "but I'm very confident." Anne Perreault of Rock-Tenn, Que., and Montrealers **Tonia Wozniak** and **Christine Bruggen** round out the 500-m team.



KEEPING THE FAITH

The original Zenkoji Temple was built in the sixth century to house the first image of Buddha brought to Japan from Korea. That bronze statue disappeared, but the subsequent copy of the Buddha is deemed so holy it is displayed only once every 100 years (the most recent showing was last spring). Preserved under the temple's eaves, the present building, erected in 1707, is the third-largest wooden structure in Japan, and its main hall is designated a national treasure.



The test drivers at Consumers Digest wanted to give us the award personally, but we've yet to get them out of the car.



It's no surprise the 1998 Century by Buick has been awarded the Consumers Digest Best Buy Award. After all, the Best Buy Award goes to a product that offers the best value for your money. We've taken many of the competitors' luxury features and made them standard. And an spacious interior ensures an environment that will even bring comfort to those painfully long trips.

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Century by BUICK



The heady rush to glory

Results and rivalry drive Canada's bobsleigh team towards the podium

Pierre Lueders says he's getting older, wiser and more confident. Could he, but that is not really apparent to the untrained eye, which detects a certain anger, a hint of cockiness, that somehow betrays the world's best bobsleigh driver and the favorite for gold at the Nagano Olympics. A bobsleigher's race, where tightly focused aggression, explosive strength, fast speed and precise timing are helped by nerves of steel, is no place for the meek. It is the domain of athletes who measure progress in one-hundredths of a second, where the margin of blinding speed, competitive need, at times, a current of fear produces an adrenaline high that lasts as long as the race itself. It is a rush that Lueders, 27, knows well this season, he captured both the two- and four-man titles on the World Cup circuit—his fourth overall two-man title and second four-man. "Things are shaping up relatively well," says an understated Lueders.

That goes for Canada's 10-member Olympic bobsleigh team in general. Joining Lueders in the medal hunt will be the Canada 2 two- and four-man machines guided by Chris Lang, 35, of Windsor, Ont. A veteran of three previous Olympics and driver of the 1990 Canadian World Cup six-man champs, Lang has been overshadowed this year by Lueders but flared with a breakthrough in December, when he finished fourth at a World Cup event in France. "There's no doubt that Pierre's success has been the emotional band for the team," says manager/coach Jeff Haight. "But Chris has been close and if not for some bad luck, he likely would have broken through as well." Moreover, the rivalry between the younger Lueders and the seasoned Lorr—who says this will be his final Olympics and perhaps his last season in competition—is making the overall team even better.

Lueders's showing this year was not unexpected. Last season, the Edmonton native piloted his two-man sled to four World Cup victories, and now he says he is simply better. "The past years' experience under my belt, so much more relaxed and focused so worried about the outcome like I used to be," says Lueders. The square-jawed former high-school quarterback—who, like many bobsleigh athletes, was recruited out of track and field because he displayed the essential ingredients: speed and strength—might feel more relaxed, but his reputation precedes him. "Pierre can be a bit of a bear all right, especially when he's into his pre-race routine," says Canada 1 four-man teammate Jack Pye. The routine is not something Lueders, who works with a sports psychologist to maximize his skills, is willing to discuss. "It's told you, then it wouldn't be in your eyes anymore, would it?" he says curiously. Does Lueders have a bit of a mean streak? "Yes," he admits. "People know the way I am on race day—I'm on edge."

The pre-race wait can add to the tension. Competitors gather in start houses that, at many European tracks, are notoriously cramped and stuffy. Apparently, discomfort is not popular with many Euro-

pean competitors. To make matters worse for Canadian sledsters accustomed to the amenities of Calgary Olympic Park, start houses at many European sites never seem to have toilet paper. "I don't know if it's part of a psychological game being played or not, but we always bring our own, just in case," says Lueders.

Those are minor distractions to the mental challenges Lueders had to overcome back in 1990. Three years earlier, at a notoriously dangerous track at Cervinia, Italy, Loris's four-man sled overturned at 135 km/h on the second-to-last corner. Loris's helmet was torn off, he was knocked unconscious and his face pulverized on the ice. After reconstructive surgery in Italy and again later in Toronto, Loris's face still bears the scars of that horrific accident. "I was lucky not to be paralyzed," he says. As destiny would have it, three years later, Lueders found himself back at the same track—which has since been closed because it was deemed too dangerous—for the first time since the crash. He and his team not only won but set a track record, 45.95 seconds, to capture the World Cup by finishing first in the last race of the season at Calgary.

But as much pride as Lorr takes in that achievement, it does not supply his greatest satisfaction. "When people ask me what I remember the most and feel most proud of, I tell them it's not anyone or medal," says Lorr. "I say it's knowing how he the program has come. By winning the World Cup we developed a position of confidence that others, like Pierre and the guys on five-man, are building upon." It is a standard that has made Canada's bobsleigh team at Nagano probably its best ever—and one that, when the medals are handed out, seems to be on the podium.

DALE ENGLISH in Calgary



■ Schmirler (left), Gledhill, Morrison and Brier (below), the most dominant women's team of the 1990s



Nagano's rock stars

Regina foursome plays for country—and for kids

There are no adverbs right that Mike Harris is an Olympic athlete. At 26, five, two inches and 200-plus lb., his physique is more stately than chiseled. As for his overpowering one-bedroom apartment in suburban east Toronto that Harris shares with his girlfriend, elementary schoolteacher Ruth Hanson, does not harbor shelves full of trophies was on the long runway to Nagano. Instead, there is just one small hint—a curling stone, with the handle removed so it can serve as a fruit bowl. That Harris, 36, is a natural athlete, a golf pro in summer and, once he took up curling at age 9 in Muskoka, a gifted skip. Now, he and third Richard Hirt, second Colin Mitchell and lead George Karrys are the first Canadian men to compete in an Olympics where curling is a full medal event. If Harris is doubted by that prospect, he is not showing it. "I'm sure we will encounter teams that are technically perfect," he says. "But we will run a lot of games with strategy and mental things."

Harris's team is in an unusual position. Canada is a global superpower in curling, so any squad representing the country is expected to do well—in truth, to win gold. But the man with the same name as the Ontario premier surprisingly isn't the skipper. Canadian thought would represent them. Unlike Sandra Schmirler's women's team, Harris and company are not world champions. They are not even Canadian champions, never having won the Labatt Brier in the years since they have played together. Harris's team secured the

right to compete in Nagano at the Olympic trials in Brantford, Ont., in November by defeating such well-known competitors—and former world champions—as Kevin Martin of Edmonton, Kerry Borchert of Winnipeg and Russ Howard of Midland, Ont. Harris, in fact, did not even have to throw his last rock after Mitchell's last went off line and bumped a Brier's stone into the rings for the winning point. For all that, it is no fluke they are Olympics-bound. "We say by news to some spectators, particularly those who just watch the Brier once a year," says Mitchell. "But curlers know us, especially in Ontario."

That they do. The Harris team is among Canada's top three money earners on the cash-hoarding circuit, with winners of \$75,000 in 1997 alone. They have competed against—and defeated—twice—Brier and Toronto's Ed Werenich, Ontario's top players for the past two decades. And the Harris foursome is hardly new to curling. Like Harris, Brier, 28, and Mitchell, 38, took it up as preteens at the encouragement of their parents, who are all avid curlers. Karrys, 30, whose parents do not curl, was a relative latecomer, giving into peer pressure at 16 to try curling. By that time, Harris's family had moved from Quebec, and the four teenagers played with and against one another as juniors in various Toronto-area clubs. Harris also met Hanson playing junior's. The four have largely played together ever since. "The chemistry of the team is so important," says Harris. "Our great strength is knowing what one another is doing."

Until the Games began, their biggest challenge is not getting caught up in the hype. In mid-January, they went to a tournament in Switzerland for a pre-Olympic tune-up—not to mention a first taste of international competition—where they lost in the semifinals to the Norwegians. But before that, Mitchell, a plumber who works for the family business in Pickering, Ont., and Hirt, an electrician similarly employed in nearby Ajax, kept themselves calm by concentrating on their day jobs. "People keep asking, 'Why are you at work, why are you not training?'" says the third Brier. "But this is how we prepare." Karrys, meanwhile, is an electrical firm in The Cans. His Curling News, where he is often editing to serve as a curling, as well as playing lead.

Harris has been less busy since returning from Austria, where he has worked as a golf pro at a club outside Salzburg for the past two summers. He is waiting to see how things go at the Olympics before deciding whether to return in April for the first year of his contract there. The toughest competition in Nagano, he believes, will come from the five Euro-area teams, Scotland, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Norway, and the United States. "At this level," he adds, "anybody can beat anybody." While Karrys also declines to make predictions, he cautions a quiet confidence when he talks about his team's skip. "Mike makes all the pressure shots without feeling the pressure." And in curling, as in life, cool heads often prevail.



The Harris revolution

Sandra Schmirler seems distracted. The competitive intensity that is her trademark as skip of Canada's Olympics-bound women's curling team dissolves the moment she steps off the ice after a club match at the Caledonian Curling Club in Regina. Glancing at her watch, Schmirler acknowledges her inattention for a such detail, but it will come to her a quick one. "I've got to get home for Sara's birthday," she explains. She is spending every possible moment with her five-month-old baby—a first-time mom, Schmirler is beginning to anticipate the separation anxiety she will feel while in Japan competing in the Olympics. "There's a way I can take Sara with me," Schmirler says. "That means leaving her for more than two weeks, and I have the thought of being so far away from her."

Harris says Canada's first Schmirler, her teammate and eventual world champion, is going through it. In the past 18 months, third Jan Brier, 37, second Joan McCaig, 32, and lead Marlene Gledhill, 32, have all had babies, and they know all about the emotional roller-coaster of pregnancy, the raging postpartum hormones and the stress of juggling family life, careers and Olympic dreams. And Schmirler has help at home—her husband, Shannon England, a computer systems analyst, plans to take time off during the Games to care for their daughter. But even while she expects the Olympics will be a "bribe" beyond words, "I'm not matching for motherhood." "When you have a baby," the 36-year-old says, "it puts curling and everything else into perspective."

Even with the demands of motherhood, Schmirler's has unquestionably been the most dominant women's team of the 1990s, during which it won three world championships, most recently in 1990. That record makes the foursome arguably Canada's best hope for a first medal in Nagano, where, for the first time, curling becomes a medal sport. But past achievements did not get them an automatic spot in the Games. They qualified in spectacular fashion, winning the Olympic trials in Banff, Alta. May, against the top 10 women's teams in Canada. The pivotal moment came in the seventh and final game, when Schmirler perfectly executed what, in curling vernacular, is called a "nicked angle take-out." The shot, which scored three points, mirrored her reputation as the best preventer short-skimmer in women's curling. "I've never seen a shot so clearly in my mind before I made the delivery as I did that one," she says.

Schmirler learned the game at a four-star club in her home town of Uptown, Sask., where long, cold winters made the curling rink a focal point for community life. But it was not her first choice. "I remember as a kid wanting to play hockey, but my mom said that wasn't for me," she says. "I started curling when I was about 12. In a small town, curling is what you play in the winter." The story is similar for the others on the team, who all took up the game at age 12 and quickly developed a love for the competition. They joined teams in 1990, and almost instantly their skills and personalities meshed. "I remember our first trip," says Gledhill. "We drove to a bonspiel in Calgary and we had so much fun. We didn't win, but we seemed to click." It didn't take long for success to follow. They won the Canadian championship in the spring of 1991 and finished fourth. They won Canadian titles and world championships in 1992, 1994 and again last season.

The competitive drive they share is balanced by complementary personalities. Gledhill is a quiet pragmatist, McCaig is the talkative spark plug, Brier is an intense perfectionist and Schmirler is emotional, but methodical, in plotting every strategy. Together they form a team with a burning desire to win for their country—and for their kids.

■ Mitchell, Hirt, Hanson and Karrys. Mike makes all the pressure shots

DALE EICKER in Japan

On the cutting edge

Call it fate or call it luck. But if it was not for a poster beckoning kids to try speed skating that her sister speed 38 years ago, Catherine LeMay-Daon probably would have continued playing tennis and never laced up a pair of speed skates. Luckily, with the encouragement of her parents, nine-year-old Catherine took along with older sister Aline to the local speed-skating club in Saskatoon. Within a year Catherine was hooked. "It was just something I enjoyed and was pretty good at right away, so I kept skating," says LeMay-Daon. Twenty goals, indeed. At 18, in her first full year competing, she skated to the top of her age group at the national championships, and dominated her class until she started training for national competition seven years ago. But for LeMay-Daon, 27, this has been her breakout season, raising expectations of Olympic medals in the 500-, 1000- and 1,500-m events. Three times she has set world records, once in the 500 m—the second best time in previous years—and twice in the 1,000. And in late January, she became the first Canadian woman since Sylvia Burka in 1977 to capture the overall title at the world sprint championships. "Last year was good, but this year's been even better," she says. "I've never been this content."

While LeMay-Daon carries high expectations in Nagano, so do others on the 16-member team—the strongest group of short-track speed skaters Canada has ever sent to the Games. Among the women, Susan Auch is back after winning a silver medal in the 500 m at the 1994 Olympics. The 31-year-old Winnipeg native made second in the 500, only a blink of an eye—50 seconds—behind LeMay-Daon. Also racing in the 500 m and 1,000 m will be Linda Johnson-Bar of Port St. John, N.C., who makes in the world's top 10 in the 500. On the men's side, the focus will be on 23-year-old Olympic Winter-sporn of Red Deer, Alta., a rising star who finished second overall at the world sprint championships and will compete in the 500 m and 1,000 m. Contending in those events, as well as the 1,500, will be Richkosen, Ontario's Kevin Overland, while Sylvain Boivin of L'Orignal, Que., will skate in the 500 m and 1,000 m, and Pat Boeschard of Caprioleville, Que., is heading on the men's down in the 500. Then there is Neal Marshall of Coquitlam, B.C., a top medal prospect in the 1,500 and 5,000 m years ago who has been weakened by overexhausted athletes this season.

Canada's emergence as a force in the world speed-skating scene is clearly a legacy of the 1998 Calgary Olympics. The \$40-million speed-skating oval at the University of Alberta, built for the Games, is widely considered the world's best facility of its kind, with the fastest ice in any rink in the world. The oval's design, with the globe used as a training site, while in Canada, the oval has drawn top athletes and given the sport new cachet. Susan Missaud, 35, of Watkinson, Alta., who will skate in the 1,000 m, had led competitive speed skating in 1980 and moved to Australia to attend university. "That I came back to it three years ago," says Missaud, "when I saw how much the coaching and the support for speed skating had improved."

Heading into her fourth Olympics, Auch eagerly attends to the team's training in the snow. "I'm in a good group of skaters in full of faith, the best I've ever been associated with," she says. "We could get six different people wearing medals."

Judging by this year's results, the best are LeMay-Daon and Winter-sporn. LeMay-Daon claims to have benefited from her disappointment in the Lillehammer Games, where she fell in the first turn in the 500 m. "I think falling in the last Olympics has given me a better perspective," she says. "Realizing there are things I can control and things I can't."



Most content and LeMay-Daon, Auch (above) Canada's strongest group of sprinters ever

Calgary's legacy puts Canada in the fast lane

need to concentrate on what I do well and not worry about making a mistake." Sprint coach Derrick Auch—Susan's brother—says of LeMay-Daon: "What can you say about Catherine—she just keeps going better." So does Winter-sporn. "Jeremy may be the best technical skater I've ever coached," says Auch. "He has the intensity you need to excel, and expects to be better every time he races." He also has a burning self-confidence, born of success. "I definitely have a credit check," says Auch's coachman. "I'm saying that I've been improving faster than the average World Cup skater."

But can too much individual success also create disruptive rivalry? Apparently not in this case. "To a member, all the speed skaters say that team chemistry has never been better, that success for one person can be a success for others." "As soon as a couple of skaters get into the top level in the World Cup, the rest of the team can't help getting better because we have to compete against each other," says Winter-sporn. That optimism is echoed by Susan's Mark Nevill, 21, who will compete in the 5,000 m and admits that top 10 finish "would be huge." Simply being on the team, he says, "is an honor. There's so much depth that just to get to the Olympics you have to skate near world-record times." For LeMay-Daon, Winter-sporn, Auch and the rest of Canada's speed-skating elite, the proof now will lie on the podium.

DALE EISLER in Calgary

ser in the 1,000 m in 1994, says his sights are set on gold in Nagano. "The standard just went up for this season and I feel good," says the 16-year-old Gagnon, who won the 2,000—his last event—and the 500 m at the Olympic qualifying competition in the Netherlands in November. Gagnon will have to handle Korea, Chinese and Italian skaters to win the 1,000, he says he could also reach the podium in the 500 if he gets a strong start. His greatest strength, according to Gagnon, is his mental preparation, which includes carefully studying his opponents. "He knows exactly how he's going to skate his race," says Gagnon. "He always makes the right moves at the right moment." Charest is another short-track speed skater to be reckoned with. The 27-year-old native of Mississauga, Ont., became the first woman to crack the 15-second barrier in the 500 m when she set the current 44.88 world record at the world championships in Nagano last March. But she has not had a stellar season leading up to the Olympics and finished third in her specialty behind China's Yang Yang and Canada's Wang. "It's no surprise that she didn't have better results in competition," says Gagnon, "because in training she has been very strong." But Charest may be having her stride and in time for the 1,000 m. Charest's last best finish was in the 1,000 m at the 1994 World Championships, a second off her world record in an unofficial race. Charest's medals are not a concern on a particular medal. "I don't want to be disappointed with a medal at the Olympics Games," says Charest, noting that "to become medalist was never my goal."

The Canadian contingent could also be called "Team Quebec," with 10 of the 12 athletes hailing from that province. Although short-track speed skating only became an official Olympic event at Albertville in 1992, the sport has long been popular in Quebec where there is a well-established competitive structure in skaters' clubs. "There isn't any system of referees to provide Canada's national team with most of its new faces."

"I think we are sending a team that is a little less experienced compared with other Olympics," says Nathalie Lambert, 34, the three-time Olympic medalist whose last to compete in Nagano ended last November when she broke her ankle at a meet in Europe. "But at the same time, it's very competitive."

The squad has a stable of strong individual skaters, all of whom are capable of reaching the finals in international competition, according to Gagnon. Anne Perreault, 36, who was a gold medalist in the women's relay at Albertville, and first-time Olympians Tania Vicent, 22, Eric Bedford, 23, and François Desautels, 20, will all

Dangerous curves

The afternoon practice is low-key and nonstop. A handful of Canada's short-track speed skaters glide around Montreal's Maurice Richard Arena at a rhythmic pace, practicing their relay over exchanges. Mike Gagnon, 22, the world record holder in the 1,000 m, comes a slight bit as the skates after a week's break. A group of male track skaters surround Gagnon, while he leans up his skates. When he takes to the rink for a few minutes of laps, his intermediate barrier and call out to him. The skater's out on his skates as he skates back over with his hands behind his back in a smooth, steady stride. In the past five years at the world championships, Gagnon has won three overall titles and placed second twice. "I think that speaks for itself," says national team coach Charlie Gagnon. "He's an exceptional athlete."

The Chinese, Gagnon, is a leading contender for a gold medal in Nagano. And he is part of a talented 12-member Canadian contingent—including several new faces and veterans like the 500-m world record-holder Isabelle Charest—who could surpass the country's three-medal haul at Lillehammer in 1994. Could it be the operative word in the rough-and-ready world of short-track speed skating, where athletes can lose as easily rounding corners as collide with other skaters, simply staying afloat can sometimes be a challenge.

Skating in the stands after practice, Gagnon, a bronze-medal win-



Gagnon, Charest (left) in the rough-and-tumble of short-track, simply staying afloat can be a challenge

so compete in the 500 and 1,000 m. The men's and women's relay teams, both ranked second behind Korea, have a good shot at medals. Charest, who was a 3,000-m relay medalist at Lillehammer, is a four-time world champion. Charest's team made up of Vicent, Perreault and 25-year-old Christine Desautels. The men's 3,000-m relay team consists of Gagnon, Desautels, Michael and Olympic veteran Derrick Campbell, 25, of Cambridge, Ont.

The Olympics will be the most for some short-trackers. Frédéric Blackmar, 25, a double-silver medalist at Albertville, failed to qualify at the Olympic trials in December. And the veteran Lambert is going to Nagano for Bobs Canada and Mounties' Ice Power newspaper. "I have mixed feelings," concedes Lambert. "I know it's going to be hard to watch." Those who are competing will battle rivals that they often refer to in the plural—"the Chinese," the Koreans, "the Russians"—rather than by individual names. "There are more competitive skaters than before," says Gagnon. In a sport sometimes called Roller Derby on ice, fierce competition can make for unforeseen results.

BRENDA BRUNSHELL in Montreal

Freestyle skiing stays true to its daredevil roots

With the greatest of ease

The hill Jean-Luc Brassard is skiing down is so steep that spectators at the bottom have to snap their heads back to get a proper view. It's a 30-degree slope carved out of Blackcomb's Meander in Whistler, B.C., divided with moguls and several larger jumps, a course designed for cooly smart skiers. Which, of course, perfectly describes 25-year-old Brassard and his teammates on the Canadian Olympic freestyle ski team, who specialize in a sport that combines the agility of gymnastics and the risks of sailing. "This is a rock 'n' roll sport," says Brassard later. "It's less politically correct than downhill skiing."

The freestyle team seems magical competitors and on aerobically well-matched medal threats at Nagano. Brassard, of Valleyfield, Que., won moguls gold at Lillehammer in 1994 and is the 1996-1997 World Cup Grand Prix champion. The moguls team also boasts medal hopefuls Stéphane Rochon, 23, of St-Sauveur, Que.; Dominick Gauthier, 24, of Lewis, Que.; and Ryan Johnson, 23, of Calgary. The contenders in the aerial competition include Nicolas Fontaine, 27, of Manicou, Que.; the 1997 World Cup champion, Andy Capikoff, 24, of Toronto; and David Bellavance, 27, of Pierrefonds, Que.

On the women's side, the best freestyle aerialist is Veronique Brezner, 23, of Sharon, Ont., the first Canadian woman to win the World Cup Grand Prix in the past decade. Caroline O'Brien, 26, of Cap-Ragau, Que., will also vie for a medal. And in moguls, Ann Marie Pelchat, 23, of Lewis, Que., qualified fifth in the world championships last year.

The once-counterculture sport has remained true to its daredevil roots, even as it has leaped into the Olympic spotlight. Mogul skiers, who gained full medal status at Albertville in 1992, have mastered the art of the quad jump and are scored on speed and style. Aerialists, who joined the parallel event in 1994, are required to execute karate-kicking flips and hand lights in one fluid pass—they are scored on style alone. All are hell-bent for Nagano. "I don't want to think about the Grand Prix any more," says Brassard after twisting 360 degrees and spread-eagling to a perfect landing. "I just want to think about Nagano."

Just a few days earlier, amidst Brassard, he had awakened at the middle of the night, panicking that he had mislaid his World Cup accreditation. "There are some people who sleep on the streets in Montreal because they don't have a home, and there I am waiting up because I thought I'd forgotten my accreditation," he says. "My biggest adversary is myself, not because the other skiers aren't as good as me—they are. But my doubts, my anxiety, my fear—if I can overcome those, I will have made a huge step forward."

That admission of vulnerability is remarkable, even for other skiers who Brassard sees as the cool cat, the one who toasts the television cameras and can best of Japanese moguls. For all his practical joking, says coach Peter Judge, "Jean-Luc has always been an extremely mature individual. This is both a positive and a negative. It has contributed to his success but made it difficult for him, too. After his Olympic victory in 1994, he felt this huge pressure, and I felt he had to live up to it."

Psychology is a large part of freestyle skiing, with its uncontrollable dangers. Brassard has been trying to wrap

her mind around several mishaps this season. She fell, broke her nose and began to feel spooked. "All of a sudden, I am worrying about things that wouldn't normally bother me," she says. This will be Brassard's first Olympics and the competition from the Aussies, the Austrians and the Chinese is intense. The women aerial skiers have been working on a more difficult jump—called the full double full, which is a triple-twisting double backflip. "This is the most major change in aerial skiing that I've seen," explains Brassard. This year, poor weather conditions have limited her chances to practice the intricate jump. Coach Judge says all Brassard needs to do is focus. "Skit is more than capable of doing that trick."

Fontaine, too, had to overcome a psychological barrier, skiing in the shadow of Quebec's legendary David Langlois, who retired in January. "All my work last year, winning the World Cup Grand Prix, was just to get ready for the Olympics," Fontaine says. He plans to get up early the morning of the race in Nagano and walk along the moon trail, concentrating and listening to music on his Walkman. Last year, before the first World Cup event, Brassard lost him a tape of music from Disney's *The Lion King* and Fontaine won the race. For the Olympics, he hopes Brassard will have another musical recommendation. Brassard says to overcome his own nervousness by praying to St. Jude, the "saint of desperate situations." But it is unlikely, given Brassard's talent, that he will need St. Jude's help.

JENNIFER HUNTER is in Whistler



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The announcement stunned officials in the otherwise unflagging and had back world of snowboarding. Last month, 23-year-old Norwegian Terje Håkonsen—the three-time world champion of the half-pipe—announced he was boycotting the Nagano Games because of what he called the “mafia-like” activities of the International Olympic Committee. He offered his best evidence to support the charge—because complaint secured him the disparity in living conditions between the athletes’ village and the plush suites given to IOC members. Boarders generally supported Håkonsen, whose defiance is consistent with the rebellious, life-on-the-edge image of the sport. The only dissenters were competitors who had hoped to challenge Håkonsen at Hakosuka Snowboard Park in Yamanouchi Town, north of Nagano. “I’m really disappointed because he is the most respected boarder around,” says 30-year-old Trevor Anderson of Falmouth, N.S., a freestyle half-pipe, on the 12-member Canadian snowboard squad. “I’m sure I would push it a little harder if he was there, but it’s his life. I respect what he is doing.”

The third old Olympic Games at Nagano are so far a culture shock. Officially assigned to the arena of so-called extreme sports, snowboarding has its own language—technical snowboarders have names such as full-on, double flip, and double squirrel, and boarders call riding “tricking” or “bailing.” Riders also have their own style—single-camber chisel—that makes once-ragunish freestyle skiers look positively conventional. Graffiti appears on the snow. The sport has exploded on recreational slopes, where it is regarded as the hip sibling to alpine skiing. That popularity is expected to grow with the inclusion of snowboarding’s giant slalom and freestyle half-pipe as full medal events at Nagano. “The Olympics will definitely make snowboarding a mainstream sport,” says 26-year-old Mark Fawcett, the Saint John, N.B., native who is Canada’s top contender for a giant slalom gold. “Obviously, the better we do, the more interest there will be in snowboarding.”

That said, snowboarders “shredders” are not going to Nagano to sell the sport. They expect to vie for medals in both the women’s and men’s events. In the giant slalom, Canada’s hopes ride with Fawcett—ranked 44th in the event by the International Snowboarding Federation—and Whistler, B.C.-based Ross Libbey, 28, who is 14th. In the men’s half-pipe, Brett Carpenter, 22, of Mount Tremblant, Que., is ranked 12th, and Andrew is 13th. Vancouver-based Nelson Zerk, 30, ranked sixth in the world, has the best shot at a medal in the women’s half-pipe. The other three women on the half-pipe team rank in the top 23 internationally. “Our team is pumped and ready to go to Nagano,” says Michael Wood, the Olympic team leader.

Snowboarding was born more than 30 years ago when California surfers hit the slopes with modified surfboards and skiboards.

After sixteen star
Fawcett: “The
Olympics will
definitely make
snowboarding a
mainstream sport”

Boarding comes of age

The Olympics welcome the wild child of the ski slopes

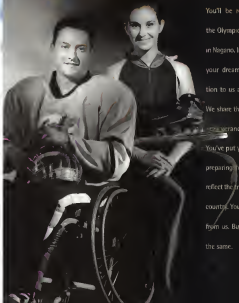
Competitively, the sport has evolved around the two events. Giant slalom is a timed discipline similar to its alpine sibling, with competitors lining up to weave narrow paths along a 500-metre course. “What makes giant slalom so great is its simplicity,” says Fawcett. “You travel from point A to point B the fastest you can, and you race against the clock, which doesn’t lie.”

The freestyle half-pipe, meanwhile, is more extreme. On a course shaped like a pipe cut lengthwise, riders launch themselves into the air off the 3-4-m-high walls. They are awarded points for the number of rotations they do in the air, the degree of difficulty of each manoeuvre and their ability to land in control. “The big thing is to impress the judges,” explains Andrew, adding with a laugh, “I try to go as big as possible from the first hit, which usually impresses the crowd more than the judges.” The judges sit at the lower end of the course, and that is where the boarders typically let loose with their best tricks.

The Canadians expect their toughest competition to come from teams from Norway, France, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. Wood says that, with Håkonsen out of the running, it is impossible to predict who will win on Feb. 12. “The top-ranked boarders are constantly changing,” he says. As they prepare for their Games debut, the Canadians are concentrating on what all Olympians want—a place on the podium—but with a typical snowboard spin. “I’m not going to focus my whole trip on a medal,” says Andrew. “My goal is to make sure I know how, and to get into the stressed-out.” “We’re black men would be proud.”

TANYA DAVIES

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You'll be representing Canada at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Nagano. In pursuing and achieving your dreams, you are an inspiration to us all. Together we're one. We share the same ambitions, fears, perseverance, and love of life. You've put your heart and soul into preparing for the Games. And you reflect the true spirit of this incredible country. You'll be half a world away from us. But, we'll be with you all the same.

Canada



Global gold diggers

The world's brightest stars wilight up the Games



JAMES THORNTON/LESTER

Tara Lipinski/ Michelle Kwon

(women's figure skating)

Michelle Kwon was just 15 when she became the second youngest world champion over two years ago. But only a year later, Kwon must have felt over the hill when she lost both her U.S. and world titles to

an even younger competitor. 18-year-old American teenager Tara Lipinski. A native of Super Lake, Tex., the tiny Lipinski arrived with an obdurate and stunning array of jumps that the then-champion could not seem to match. At the time, Kwon and her coaches said the maturation of her body hampered her performance. But soon she rounded into top form, beating Lipinski to capture two events in the fall. While Lipinski, now 19, certainly has tremendous technical ability—she nailed seven triple in a recent final—Kwon seems better able to combine technical and artistic elements in a way that the judges prefer (Lipinski, who rises as early as 2 a.m. for training and drops four hours of tanning daily, complains that her scores have recovered even though she is skating as well or better than she did last year).

Kwon suffered a temporary setback at the Skate Canada competition in Halifax in early November, when she seriously aggravated an old injury, forcing her to sit for three weeks with a cast on her knee. But the Torrance, Calif., teen, now all of 17, looked fresh when she performed at the U.S. championships in early January, skating a pre-planned program to capture the national title. Lipinski, after a six-week short skid, recovered to place second. The bronze went to 20-year-old Nicole Bobek—who, like Kwon and Lipinski, is a candidate

of the sport. Married to Hirofumi Pandey, a member of the national cross-country team, she dominated the 1997 world championships, winning gold in the 15-km and the 30-km pursuits, and a bronze in the 7.5-km sprint. At Nagano, the 30-year-old Kwon's career competition will come from Gabriela Kneissler of Russia—a better skier than Forsberg, but not as good a shot—and the Swede remains a favorite in both the 15-km and 7.5-km races.

Magdalena Forsberg (biathlon)

She may have slowed late in her sport, but once Magdalena Forsberg found the biathlon, she barely paused before beating all comers. The Swede started as a member of the national cross-country squad, with whom she won bronze in part of the relay team at the 1995 world championships. But after years of otherwise lackluster results, Forsberg—who had always loved hunting with her dogs—switched in 1995 to biathlon, which combines cross-country skiing with target shooting, and began a steady climb to the top of the sport. Married to Hirofumi Pandey, a member of the national cross-country team, she dominated the 1997 world championships, winning gold in the 15-km and the 30-km pursuits, and a bronze in the 7.5-km sprint. At Nagano, the 30-year-old Kwon's career competition will come from Gabriela Kneissler of Russia—a better skier than Forsberg, but not as good a shot—and the Swede remains a favorite in both the 15-km and 7.5-km races.

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Bjorn Daehlie (cross-country)

Few Canadians would recognize him, but at Nagano his name may be spoken more often than that of any other athlete. In fact, Norway's Bjorn Daehlie may be the greatest men's cross-country racer of all time. Known to blow knees and face a playful fit after winning races, Daehlie has already won five gold and three silver medals in the past two Olympic Games, and his undiminished good looks

and success on the trails have made him a huge star in his home country. Coming into this season, the 36-year-old Norwegian had won 36 World Cup races—more than anyone else—as well as 15 medals at the world championships since 1981. At last year's world championships in Trondheim, Norway, Daehlie swept three golds—in the 10-km classic, the 15-km freestyle pursuit and the men's relay. He added a silver in the 30-km freestyle and bronze in the 50-km classic. So for this season, Daehlie leads in World Cup point standings—and all about of countryman Thomas Alnstad in second. Norwegian skiers hold four of the top seven spots in world competition, and, barring the aster, seem certain to win the men's Olympic relay.

Originally from a small town in the Alps, Karine Ruby watched French skiers win medals in what in 1992 was a new Olympic sport, freestyle skiing. Six years later and half a world away, she hoped to reproduce that feat in Nagano, in another Olympic sport, snowboarding. And her chances are good. In 1993, at 18, Ruby won her first races over the World Cup snowboarding circuit and, two seasons later, held World Cup titles in slalom and giant slalom, becoming the women's overall champion. Earlier this year, on her way to five straight giant slalom victories, she celebrated her 25th World Cup triumph. "My advantage is that I know no fear," the 23-year-old says. Beyond her aggressive approach, Ruby's speed and control on the slopes are unmatched. She never lets her head or giant slalom this year. At the Games, her main competition is expected to come from Sandra Van Ert of the United States.

In the past 20 years, few skiers have dominated events in so many different disciplines—and no one has done it more quickly than Austria's Hermann Maier. Three years ago, Maier was working as a bricklayer. Now, he is a four-time win over Olympic gold in World Cup competition this season. Maier's strength and technical skill have earned him victories in the downhill, giant slalom and super-G races, only a slalom win has eluded the 35-year-old. Maier's achievement is all the more remarkable because it comes in only his second World Cup season; he hasn't raced since 1992 because of knee problems. He returned to the sport in 1996, and seems certain to win the overall World Cup title, where a skier's points are combined on each of the four events.

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But Maier is not the only Austrian skier in gold headlines. Team star Stefan Ederer has been charged with the task of marking one-two in the standings. In fact, with skiers like Maier, Ederer, Andreas Schiffrer and Christen Mayer, one of the biggest problems facing the Austrians is that they can enter only four skiers in each Olympic race. The Austrian men's team has been no different this year than at it event in Bialystok, Italy, their skiers took six of the top eight spots. No matter how observers are asking that World Cup races look more like Austrian national championships. After Nagano, they may be saying the same about the Olympics.

Masahiko Horodo (ski jumping)

Japan's Masahiko Horodo is known for his ever-present grin and his infectious enthusiasm, but mention the Lillehammer Olympics to the former world champion and the smile quickly disappears. Horodo lost the Olympic gold for Japan in the men's competition four years ago when on his final jump he landed four meters short of the distance required to overtake the Germans. Fortunately, he has enjoyed better luck since then. Last year, Horodo won four World Cup events, including the 56-320 world title. He has earned that reputation into the current season, and he leads the world jumping points standings. His teammates are also having excellent seasons, and combined, they top the Nations Cup rankings, with countryman Kazuyoshi Funaki in closing in on Horodo. With backing like that—and spurred on by vocal Japanese support at the new venue at Hakuba, 40 km west of Nagano City—27-year-old Horodo could find himself not only capturing the individual title but also adding up his 1994 performance and clinching gold for Japan.

She has done some high-flying in her time, and American figure skater Nancy Kerrigan will provide the perfect point of departure towards a gold medal in the women's freestyle aerials competition in 1996—after a disappointing 13th place finish at the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics—Stone became the world champion and also held the overall points crown. She

aloud to try to meet the following year, but a serious back injury forced her to miss the first two events of the World Cup series, leaving her fourth overall.

Stone, who hopes to parlay her wholesome looks and enthusiastic on- and off-ice career after she retires, won her first World Cup back in 1990. But she has had some bitter disappointments in her otherwise stellar career—not only the Lillehammer disaster but a 10th place in the 1997 worlds. “I think it was a good thing I got my last looked because I got me fired up for this season,” says the native of Westborough, Mass., who stands first overall in World Cup competition, leading Veronique Jemmer of Sharon, Ont. “That happened when I didn’t do well at the Olympics and I came back the next year and was the world title.” At Nagano, Stone—who will turn 27 just before the Games—will once again be out to prove her resilience and turn failure into Olympic gold.

Norbert Huber (singles luge)

How did Norbert Huber become one of the world’s best lugers? Perhaps not just racing in the luge’s family. In Lillehammer four years ago, he won silver in the two-man luge competition, but one disappointment was interpreted by his younger brother Wilfried taking the gold. After some losses, a third brother, Gernadi, was bronze in the two-man bobsleigh event, while another, Arnold, placed fourth in the singles luge. (The Huber sibling rivalry is part of a product of the physics of luge: partners should not be the same size, meaning the brothers were unable to compete together.) After Lillehammer, when his partner of 10 years retired, Norbert Huber decided to go it alone, and this year the 33-year-old sits second in overall singles standings behind Swiss teammate Armin Zöggeler. But Nagano will be something of a moment for the Huber sibling dynasty: Gernadi, who is second in the two-man bobsleigh rankings, will be there, and so will Wilfried, who like Norbert has switched to singles luge and sits only a few places behind in world rankings.

Lee-Kyung Chun (short-track speed skating)

South Korean Lee-Kyung Chun has dominated her sport like few other athletes. She still holds world records in three of the four individual events and in the reigning overall world championship. She is also a two-time Olympic champion, and is ranked first in the world over the 1,000-m and the 3,000-m distances. That

had the Olympics will not highlight the full extent of Chun’s talent: she won six more titles in the 500-m, 1,000-m and the 3,000-m relay.

But spectators will still see plenty of the speedy veteran. Chun leads a strong South Korean team, which includes world double-event medalist Han-Kyung Min. Widely expected to win the 3,000-m relay, Chun and the South Koreans will be challenged by Isabelle Charest and the Canadians, as well as by a powerful Chinese team. In individual competition, Chun—going into what will likely be her last Olympics—has not been in top form recently in the 1,000-m event. But she is the defending Olympic champion and the world record holder in the 1,000, and she has at least one outside shot in the 500-m.



Chris Witt (long-track speed skating)

When U.S. speed skater Chris Witt went to get a tattoo recently, she knew immediately what she wanted: a Notre Dame Fighting Irishman. Although she is not a Notre Dame fan—the 22-year-old attended Carroll College in her native Wisconsin—she saw a lot of himself in the tough little fighter who is forever moving forward. It is a style that has quickly made her one of the fastest sprinters on the skating oval—and the favorite in the 1,000-m event in Nagano. At the 1994



Olympics, Witt went unseeded, placing 23rd. But the following year she captured the World Cup title in the 1,000, as well as gold in the world sprint championship. A confirmed member of the MTV generation who recently had her navel pierced, Witt is an all-around athlete—she was an alternate on the U.S. Olympic cycling team in Atlanta. In skating, she is the current world record holder in the 1,000 m and, on any given day, is capable of winning events from the 500 to 1,500 meters. Canadian Catherine Leyba, once the world record holder in the 500 m, will provide stiff competition in both the 500 and 1,000-m events.



second to Canadian Rita Skiba at the worlds last year—new observers are again suggesting he could win Olympic gold. “His desire to be on the podium that has kept me fired up for so long,” says the quiet 26-year-old. Since Skate America, Eldredge has recovered from his injury, and he captured his fifth national title in early January. Still, it would help Eldredge’s Olympic hopes if he could bolster his jumps. He is one of the few serious challengers for gold who has yet to complete a quadruple toe loop in competition. Without that—wait against a tough international field led by Skiba—the American’s desire may not be enough.

Ids Postma (long-track speed skating)

When Norway’s Johan Olav Koss retired from long-track speed skating after the Lillehammer Olympics, the sport lost one of its most exciting performers. In Nagano, Dutch sister Ids Postma may come forward to fill Koss’s shoes. In 1994, Postma announced his transition from the junior ranks to the men’s circuit by placing second overall at the world championships in Sweden. After posting a very strong Dutch men’s team—which still includes Gianni Romasco, the world record holder in the 5,000 m—Postma’s career was derailed in 1995 when he was stricken by the debilitating Epstein-Barr syndrome. But he made a successful comeback in 1996 and finished second overall in the world standings. By 1997, the



quiet but intense skater became a favorite to win at the Olympics after shattering the 1,500-m world record formerly held by Neal Marshall of Copenhagen, D.C.

At Nagano, 23-year-old Postma—who lives on a farm where he raises cattle—will skate in only the 1,000- and 1,500-m events. (Even though he won the world championship in the 5,000 m in 1996, he will not compete in that race because of a poor showing at the Dutch qualifiers.) Marshall, 28, and 22-year-old Jeremy Wotherspoon of Great Britain will have to fight against the Dutch skater in both the 1,000 m and the 1,500 m.

Todd Eldredge (men’s figure skating)

Turning up for the finals of the Skate America competition last October, Todd Eldredge fell heavily to the ice and dislocated his shoulder. He skated anyway—and won. Going into Nagano as U.S. champion, he will have to demonstrate that sort of determination again—and perhaps more—if he hopes to capture gold.

Eldredge took his first U.S. title at age 19 in 1990, and seemed destined to duplicate the 1988 Olympic gold medal achievement of countryman Brian Boitano that things quickly began to unravel for the Chelmsford, Mass., skater. He was disappointing 19th at the 1992 Olympics and failed to even qualify for the Lillehammer Games. But now—after regaining his national championship in 1995 and finishing

Though unknown to many Canadians, they will soon become household names



because Russia's old revolutionary capital is a skating mecca, the base for most of the country's top contenders and coaches. There, overcoming difficulties that range from learning to ice without Soviet-style sports subsidies to more contemporary problems such as fuel shortages for the ice-growing machines, Pavlova has spent 15 years perpetuating such winners as perennial pairs champions Marina Mishina and Andrei Butikov. She is in good company as Alexei Mishin—winner of the 1996 Olympic men's singles championship, Alexei Urmanov—who calls St. Petersburg home, as does renowned pairs coach Tamara Moskvina. "It's tradition," Pavlova says. "Figure skating competition in St. Petersburg goes back well before the Bolshevik Revolution."

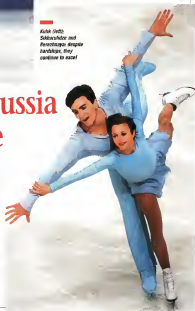
St. Petersburg, though, does not have a complete monopoly on Russian figure skating champions. Such contenders as Eya Kulk—a serious threat to Canadian Elise Straker's Olympic gold in the men's singles—train in Moscow, sharing space with national teams with a dash of inter-city rivalry. And wherever they call home, Russian coaches and competitors have all lived through the fall of the Soviet

Kulk (left), Skladanovskaya and Pavlova: despite hardships, they continue to excel

From Russia with love

Everyone at the rink understood the significance of the banner stretched across one end of Moscow's Seltskaya Ice Palace in December: "Moscow, Milan, Nagano," it read. For Russian figure skaters, that was practically the entire season pared down to sports shorthand. Thereafter are the sites, respectively, for the Russian championships, the European championships and the last stop for every serious contender on blades this year, Japan's Winter Olympics. As usual, the Russians will be a formidable presence, parading the podium with a mix of seasoned champions and rising stars. "Why are Russians so good at this sport?" ask a veteran coach, Nadezhda Pavlova. "Maybe it's because we have to work under difficult conditions. We are used to dealing with problems while focusing on the training, the practices, the routines."

Pavlova, an elegant blond resplendent in a full-length, dark coat, makes a good case for adding a fourth name to the banner listing key cities for Russian figure skaters: St. Petersburg. That is



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Children with conduct disorder (CD) or oppositional defiant disorder (ODD) are at risk of developing antisocial personality disorder (APD) in adulthood. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between CD and ODD in childhood and APD in adulthood. A sample of 100 children with CD or ODD was followed up for 10 years. The results showed that 25% of the children with CD or ODD developed APD in adulthood. The findings suggest that CD and ODD are important risk factors for the development of APD.

How, then, do they do it? In the old Soviet system, the first travel was a major incentive, but in capitalist Russia today, in the construction of the \$50,000 to \$15,000 shavers can collect for winning top international competitions. Still, Anatol Dnestrov, a 1982 Olympic gold medalist in pairs skating, suggests that the Russians' success is rooted less in a desire for money than in the skaters' total addiction to the sport. Certainly, the pressure and grind of training is enough to put off all but the most dedicated. "Anyway," said Dnestrov, who will be competing with new partner Irina Kamkova in Nagano, "I'd want out of the ice performing and thinking about money, but nothing good would come of it."

That Soviet commitment to art, words, figure skaters and coaches. No other Russians, like nothing better than describing the numerous ways in which life has become harder in recent years. There has certainly been a dip in figure skating's popularity within Russia.

The 5,000-seat Soldatki arena was barely half full during the national championships in December, and there has been a corresponding decline in the audience for televised events. Natasha Tikhonova, a legend who said she was so awful figure-skating long during the Soviet era, explains that she is too busy scrambling to make a living to spend much time watching sliders these days. "Besides," she adds, "figure skating used to promote us with one of the few glimpses of glamer permitted under the old regime. I used to go to the skating rink, and the coats were for the coaches and top contestants. Now anyone who has the money can get a fur coat."

Retired coach Stanislav Zhuk laments the passing of the Soviet sports system, saying that the near disappearance of state subsidies has reduced the talent pool of Russian figure skaters. Now, a financial hardship as well as a young contender. "The team almost two-thirds," he adds. "A schools and skating rink. No traders operating wholesale Russian kids bringing their skates. Veteran pairs competitor Buharic middle middle might even be most dedicated to competitors. "because of the way life is now. North American kids are just

Certainly there are no animals in the sediments of pure desert. Anton Sokolovskiy and Velena Borzhnaya, top contenders for Nagorno's title, suggest a different interpretation. They note that only two years ago Borzhnaya had a good chance of never sailing—never made it home—again. At the time, she was teamed up with another skier, the latest partner in her determined journey from a dead-end, small town in southern Russia. In January, 1996, her partner's skis accidentally locked her in the head as they were performing one-legged ski jumping a practice session. As the fly drifting in and out of consciousness, blood pooling on the ice from her fractured skull, Borzhnaya's family members hoisted people at the risk of freezing for medical help. Afterward, she says, "I was partially paralyzed."

abused on the right side and the injury initially affected my speech."

[illegible]

Of course, pride and passion are not all that drives Russian skaters—there is also money. Pair skaters Dmitriy and Kseniya Koston have a \$45,000 cheque for winning the 1996 European championships in Sofia, Bulgaria. That sum, of course, was split among Dmitriy, Kseniya and their coach Mosolova, their choreographer and Russian ice collectors, who take 50 per cent of the top 10. Northsides, Dmitriy's

and money are the skaters

later. He doesn't plan to decide about moving on to professional ice shows until after the Nagano Games.

Do the skaters and coaches miss the old days? Coach Milosavljevic, even though he too finds it most difficult to recruit and train top-calibre contenders. "Nothing compares to freedom and we have that now," says Milosavljevic, a short man whose narrow-set blue eyes peer out from a red dyed. He was once directed through papers by a nurse officials feared he might defeat. "Twenty-one talks about how tired used to be the big incentive for skaters in Soviet times," he says. "But I can remember when I was released permission to accompany my skaters to a competition abroad. Had to coach them by long-distance telephone."

Mosin has other complaints these days. A nagging leg injury will keep his current top star, Alexei Urmanov, from defending his 2000 Olympic crown in Nagano. Urmanov is not the only one on the sick list. Kishi plans to compete in Japan even though he is bothered by a sore back and pains after Bashlakov stands to skate through a persistent leg injury. "I don't feel well and it can be hard to concentrate, but because of the pain," Bashlakov says, "that is not a time to be weak. The Olympics are ahead here." For Russian skaters who have overcome the collapse of a nation and its irredeemable sports system, more injuries are small stuff.

NICHOLAS GRAY is Director



Behind in training: "For the first time in a while, I was back on track!"

Taking her best shot

For almost anyone else, it might well have been the moment, the right time to skip gracefully into much-desired retirement. There were already nearly a century past least those two gold medals at Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994, the only time a Canadian woman has ever won twice in a single Winter Olympics. Since then, however, the results have been less than stellar as career, motherhood and fathering health-impaired Myrland Berland's attempt to once more scale the highest heights of biathlon, the sport that—virtually alone—the population in Canada, Severyn should the star, along the mile and a half it is a career. "I thought about quitting, for sure," Berland admits. "The last few years have not been easy." But with sight in eyes as clear as winter, she adds, "I want to go to the Olympics again. Maybe I'll make the top 10 this time around, maybe not. The victory rests in just being there."

If that is true, then Berland has already won. For the 28-year-old from Quebec City will compete for Canada on the country's biathlon team, as she has done in the two preceding Winter Olympics. Not only that, of the medal members of the team—four men, four women—Berland remains Canada's best hope for a medal in the grueling sport that combines the strength and stamina of cross-country skiing with the precision of rifle shooting. "She's still our favorite," says Terry Stashko, executive director of Biathlon Canada. "Mentor's making a comeback. If she goes into the competition feeling good and our energy reserves have not been too depleted, she has a chance of being a medalist again."

Even Berland concedes that the odds are against a repeat performer at her two triumphs at Lillehammer, when she won gold in both the 10 km as well as the 7.5 km. "The generations have



The queen of biathlon tries to recapture the magic

going to be enough for her to be as good as she was in 1994. She has to be better." No one is more aware of that than Berland herself. "Will I be disappointed if I don't win a medal?" she asks. "Not really. In my sport, the difference between being first and 100th is sometimes less than a minute. All I really wanted to do was get to Nagano. I managed to do that. Everything else is a bonus."

changed," she readily acknowledges. "I've gone from being the youngest member of the team to being one of the oldest." Much else has transpired since those Games in Norway. Two months after the Olympics, she married longtime companion and fellow biathlete Jean Piquart. Ten months later, he by disaster Maud's own hand. And six months after that happy event, Berland was diagnosed with fatigue and hypothyroidism, an addition that slowed down her metabolism. She later discovered she suffered from chest and lung ailments, which were also sapping her energy.

Since then, Berland has learned to cope with the ailments and thyroid problems. "I'm on a strict, rotational diet," she explains, "and can't eat the same thing two days in a row. I also have to avoid a long list of foods—eggs, milk, too many of them to name." She manages the dreary condition with medication. "It's been a really tough battle," she says. "But I think I've finally reached the point where everything is just under control."

As Berland's health has improved, so has her performance. Last December, in the run-up to the Olympics, she managed to post her best international result in more than a year, placing fifth in the 15 km event in World Cup competition at Ostermund, Sweden. "That was an important result for me," she recalls. "For the first time in a long while, I felt I was getting back on track. I was able to breathe. I was able to fight. I was able to give the best of myself."

Among the four women on the team, only Berland and Kristin Berg were on the 1994 squad in Norway. Niko Kiehl of Toronto and Michelle Collett of Vancouver, B.C., will be competing in their first Games. Berland and Kiehl have both finished in the top 15 at World Cup events—in the women's 15 km, they could do it again at the Olympics but only if they race their best. "The same applies to the men's team. In last year's Slieve Donard 30, of Val d'Aoste, Quebec, in a year's world championships, he finished ninth, boasting hopes of similar results in Japan, perhaps even a shot at a medal."

The Canadian team as a whole faces fierce competition, led by the Germans, the Russians, a host of Scandinavian nations, the French and a few eastern Europeans. "The field is far stronger right across the board this year than it was in 1994," says Stashko. "That's one of the problems. Myrland is facing it in her comeback. It's not easy to do that. All I really wanted to do was get to Nagano. I managed to do that. Everything else is a bonus."

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Trouble on the way to the altar

BY JOHN GEDDES

They started out by attending Finance Minister Paul Martin, the man who holds the fate of their 50-year-old merger in his hands. Then, the Royal Bank and the Bank of Montreal watched helplessly as Liberal MPs voiced fierce resistance to the blockbuster deal. Compounding the two banks' political troubles, rival institutions vied to poach their customers while they struggle to contain mounting public relations drizzle. So went the first week in the campaign by the Royal and the Bank of Montreal to win support for their unprecedented pairing. At the headquarters of the two giants on Toronto's Bay Street, senior bankers struggled to put a brave face on their dilemma. "You have to give people a chance to express their emotional views before they are willing to listen to the facts," said David Moorcroft, Royal's vice-president of public affairs.

On the evidence so far, that may take some doing. The led-wing of the Liberal caucus—21 but growing—during the government's four-year fight to wipe out the federal deficit—has been roused by outrage against the merger. Even some of the more moderate voices in the party are sounding deeply skeptical. They fear that the deal will mean less competition, particularly in small towns, and thousands of lost jobs as branches are combined. Significantly, even Martin's own Finance Minister Jean Charest has done anything to quell the anger against the pair's union and the "These two banks have poisoned the caucus around this issue in a way that I have seldom seen," says Michael Robynson, a public policy consultant at Ottawa-based Earmackville Strategy Group and longtime adviser to Martin. "They have made a significant tactical mistake."

Of course, there was no way the Royal and the Bank of Montreal could have avoided the vigorous merger in Canadian history without creating controversy: that by doing to give Martin another notice of their Jan. 28 announcement, the banks, perhaps unintentionally, set a defiant tone. Martin's initial response was a curt statement that he would not rule on the proposal until he receives the recommendations of a federal task force on the financial services sector. Within days, however, Martin pre-empted the task force by demanding that the two banks promise not to eliminate any jobs and to guarantee better services for small towns and small businesses. At a two-day Liberal caucus retreat in the resort town of Collingwood, Ont., Martin's mood appeared to energize MPs who might otherwise have thought twice before voicing a strong opinion so early in the debate. "We're trying to determine if a merger like this would be in the best interest of Canadians," said Ontario MP Tony Valeri, Martin's parliamentary secretary. "We say it looks right all the way, clearly it would not be. At least that's the view of caucus."

The Liberal caucus has demonstrated hostility towards the



Liberal MPs take aim at Canada's richest merger



Royal Bank teller machines in Toronto; Martin in Collingwood, Ont., faces resistance

banks before—most decidedly in its rejection two years ago of their requests to sell insurance through their branches and to expand into car leasing. One theory in Ottawa is that the Royal Bank and the Bank of Montreal were hoping to win Martin's support by appearing to his distant belief that Canadian companies need to compete more aggressively outside the country. But if so, the bankers may be disappointed. In a key shift in emphasis late last year, Martin began to muse publicly about the potentially damaging impact of global competitive forces. "The fact is that globalization has proceeded at a pace that has outstripped the capacity of governments to fully manage its consequences," he said in a Nov. 12 speech at the University of Toronto that drew little attention at the time.

The banks' merger plan has given Martin a chance to show what he meant when he talked in that speech about coping with "the backlash of globalization and technological change." Politically, the timing is perfect for the finance minister. Having acquired an image as a hard-nosed champion of fiscal rectitude, he now faces grumbling in the caucus over the fact that, at least this year, there will be only a modest amount of new spending to reward Canadians for wiping out the deficit. Taking on the banks could bolster his popularity among Liberals at a time when the party is beginning to contemplate a successor to Chrétien.

That does not necessarily mean that Martin will turn the banks down flat. Job guarantees—perhaps the most contentious item on the list of issues raised by the proposed merger—offer one avenue for compromise. Last week, Bank of Montreal chairman Matthew Barnett and Royal Bank chairman John Cleghorn politely refused to promise that every one of their current employees will have a job if the merger goes ahead. But early speculation that the banks secretly intend to lay off many thousands is probably wrong. For one thing, the banks have estimated that a merger would allow them to eliminate at most 3,000 positions from their combined work forces of 85,000 over the three years it would take to meld their operations. Since 7,000 employees of the two banks retire or otherwise leave voluntarily every year, Moorcroft says the worldwide reductions could easily be absorbed by attrition. If those figures are correct, there seems to be ample room for the two banks to offer Martin a more strongly worded assurance about employment levels—as part of a concession that could make a merger more politically palatable.

Explaining the employment outlook is part of the selling job that lies ahead for the two banks. Over the coming months, Moorcroft said, Cleghorn and Barnett will oversee a methodical lobbying effort, including face-to-face meetings between senior bankers and any MP who wants to hear. Added Moorcroft, "How we put all on the wrong foot with some people? Probably. Should we have been going ahead closed doors and secretly lobbying certain people before we made this announcement? I don't think so."

Still, some of the early comments made by the top bankers appear to have made matters worse. Some Liberals thought the anecdotal Barnett sounded too glib last week when he boasted that the merged bank would be powerful enough to "back us" in the United States. "This is not something to play around with," Valeri said. "This affects people's lives."

If the two banks do manage to win over Martin and most of the Liberal caucus, they will be brooking a dismal string of failures to get their message across. Pollster FRI. Two years ago, the banks failed to convince Ottawa to give it the right to sell insurance from bank branches. Barnett complained bitterly that Canadian banks have "the most ineffective lobby in the world." Bank of Nova Scotia chairman Peter Gossio concurred, describing the banks' combined efforts to sway politicians as "incompetent." John Chmer, editor of the Ottawa-based newsletter *The Lobby Monitor*, says that in the most recent legislative battles, the banks have succeeded in winning over experts such as the bureaucrats in the finance department, only to be out-maneuvred when it comes to winning the hearts and minds of ordinary MPs.

Could the banks once again be making too much of their ability to persuade the experts? Senior officials at both the Royal Bank and the Bank of Montreal were laying heavy emphasis last week on the fact that so intense report they expect the task force to give members the green light at its final report, due in September. But how much weight that recommendation will carry is far from clear. "There may be quite a bit of discrepancy between the task force report and what we hear from Canadians," Valeri said after a recent caucus session with many Liberals opposed to the marriage, the Royal Bank and the Bank of Montreal are facing a lively early step at the way to the altar. □



Billie Gertz and former
TD chairman Richard
Thomson shake

BUSINESS

Is bigger really better?

The evidence from past bank mergers is mixed

Charles Billie was doing his best, to sound scrappy. Sporting a white cowboy hat, the post-merged chairman of the Toronto Dominion Bank told shareholders in early last week that he is ready to wrestle with the banking world that will be formed if Ottawa approves the \$20-billion merger of the Royal Bank and the Bank of Montreal. By bobbing and weaving around its larger competitors, he added, TD, the smallest of the country's five banks, will continue to prove that bigger is not necessarily better. "We out-performed all the banks last year—we had the best earnings growth," Billie said. "Being the size we are, we're nimble."

It was a curious comment coming from a bank that was born of a merger between the Bank of Toronto and the Dominion Bank in 1955—a huge corporate marriage by the standards of the time. But even so, he trumpeted the virtues of smallness. Billie declined to rule out any future mergers involving his company. His counterpart at the Bank of Nova Scotia—which has undertaken six major acquisitions in its 135-year history—tackled a similar tack. "Everybody is looking at everybody," Scotiabank chairman Peter Godeaux said in Ottawa after his bank's annual meeting.

That much is clear. What is not clear, analysts say, is whether bank mergers offer any benefits for consumers, bank employees or shareholders. Officials at the Royal and the Bank of Montreal say that if they are allowed to pool their resources, they will be

able to compete more effectively abroad. In addition, they say a merger would make it easier in Canada to fend off foreign giants that specialize in specific areas, such as mortgage lending or credit cards. "We'll lose our own identity if we're not masters of our own identity," says Royal chairman John Clogher.

In the end, however, Canadian consumers and some bank employees could pay the price for financial sovereignty. In the United States, studies point to a growing gap between fees charged by big banks and their smaller competitors. One recent survey found that consumers paid an average of 15 per cent more to maintain a checking account at one of the 100 largest U.S. banks than at a smaller competitor. "Bigger banks should have lower costs, but they're not passing them on to consumers," says Ed Marston of the Public Interest Research Group, a Washington-based consumer group.

POST-MERGER BLUES

In 1992, the Royal Bank swallowed Royal Trust, at the time the country's second-largest trust company. Since then, Royal Trust's branch network and payroll have both shrunk.

	Then	Now
Branches	342	79*
Employees	5,000	4,390

*The 41 combined Royal Trust/Royal Trust branches

ation that conducted the study.

Canadian banks counter that their service charges are 50 per cent lower than those south of the border. Yet fees and service levels are still a sore point. In a survey of 10,800 people last fall by the Consumers' Association of Canada and the Toronto-based National Quality Institute, banks were ranked 17th out of 28 sectors for overall service quality. "I think a lot of people this morning could be the last straw," says CAC executive director Martin McCall.

A larger bank would almost certainly spell trouble for some bank workers. Recent mergers involving big U.S. banks have led to thousands of layoffs. While Clogher and Bank of Montreal chairman Matthew Barrett declined last week to rule out any job cuts, they said they will attempt to keep the reductions to within normal attrition levels of eight to 10 per cent annually. They also point to a recent study by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland comparing 200 bank acquisitions between 1984 and 1994. Two or three years after a merger, the study states, banks typically employ between five and seven per cent more workers than before the acquisition. (In Canada, there is evidence pointing the other way. In 1993, just after its \$1.6-billion acquisition of Royal Trust, the Royal Bank laid 52,745 employees. Its payroll dropped to 49,396 a year later and is now 50,719.)

Despite the job cuts, studies by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board and by a government-appointed inquiry in Australia show that in many cases bank mergers do not result in higher fees or lower service. "The odds are against it," says Tony Brown, a bank analyst with the New York City brokerage Davidson, Lubin & Janette Securities Inc. He adds that the problem is often a lack of strong leadership. "The company becomes inflexible because one side of the bank is still fighting with the other side. Execution is much more important than size."

Brown, a noted critic of bank mergers, is nevertheless optimistic that the Royal and the Bank of Montreal will avoid the mistakes of other combined banks. The Royal, he says, is a North American leader in marketing to individual demographic groups, while the Bank of Montreal is modern in its use of electronic and small branch banking. "If you put these two companies together," says Brown, "there may be an opportunity here for some body to finally realize some benefits from size." Ultimately, shareholders will be looking to Clogher and Barrett to prove that they can be beneficial.

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Pipeline partnership

Two energy giants unite to fend off a competitor

When he arrived at his Calgary office last Nov. 11 after availing a plan to split Nova Corp.'s pipeline and petrochemical operations into separate companies, CEO Ted Newell received an urgent message from his counterpart at TransCanada Pipe Lines Ltd. "Ted, I think you've just solved both our problems," George Watson said when Newell returned the call. With those words, the ball began rolling. By the end of last week, because the largest deal in Canadian energy sector history: the \$14-billion merger of Nova and TransCanada to create the fourth-largest gas pipeline company in North America, with about 6,000 employees. "This is good for Canada," says Newell. "It gives us one player in the big leagues."

The two CEOs looked the merger as a marriage "made in heaven," but in one respect it was a shotgun wedding. Nova, which has a monopoly over gas collection and distribution in Alberta, and TransCanada, which operates the main line to Central Canada and the United States, currently occupy privileged positions in the Canadian energy industry, but their dominance may now be shaken by a new and disappointed rival. The proposed \$12-billion Alliance Pipeline Ltd. project—backed by a consortium of industry giants including DuPont Energy Corp. of Charlotte, N.C., and Gulf Canada Resources, N.C.—is set to build a 3,000-km line from southwestern British Columbia to Chicago. If approved by the National Energy Board, the Alliance project would challenge Nova in Alberta and compete head-to-head with TransCanada in the Canada-U.S. market.

Given those pressures, last week's merger did not come as a huge surprise to industry observers. In fact, the entire energy sector is now in the throes of consolidation and expansion. On the oil and gas production side, there were \$13.2 billion worth of proposed and completed acquisitions in Canada in the first nine months of 1997, up from \$10.6 billion in all of 1996 and \$7.5 billion in 1995. The latest marriage was last week when Texas-based Union Pacific Resources Group Inc. offered \$5 billion for Calgary-based Norcon Energy Resources Ltd. At the same time, there are 15 pipeline projects worth \$10 billion on the drawing boards under construction. Analysts say the low Canadian dollar has spurred ac-

quisition, you have to be big enough to play in that league." Watson and Newell say they anticipate no problems winning approval from Ottawa because, as they see it, the deal does not reduce competition. "Our businesses are complementary, not competitive," says Watson, who will be president and CEO of the merged gas services company, while Newell takes over as chairman of the separate Nova petrochemicals operation.

Eventually, the merger will result in job losses, particularly among head-office positions. Neither Newell nor Watson would speculate on the number, although Newell said he hopes attrition and voluntary retirements will eliminate the need for layoffs. The two companies say they expect to reduce their costs by \$150 million—roughly 10 percent of their combined annual revenues of \$11 billion. In 1996, Nova's gas operations recorded a profit of \$221 million (revenues of \$8.4 billion). TransCanada reported 2097 earnings of \$408 million on \$14.2 billion in revenues.

Beyond the financial logic, the key to the pipeline merger was Nova's decision to separate its natural gas and petrochemical divisions. As a hybrid company operating in the regulated natural gas business and the more volatile, non-regulated petrochemical market, Nova suffered from what economists call the "complementarity effect": the ups and downs of the petrochemicals business were unsettling for investors who might have been seeking the stability of a gas company. In future, investors will have their choice of two distinctly different companies, each highly focused on one market.

"I give them thumbs up," says Tom Kedzie, a principal at Petros and Company in Calgary. "In the short term, it is really going to help Nova. And in the medium- to long-term, TCPL will see the benefits." Investors clearly share that view. After languishing in the \$11-to-\$12 range for two years, Nova's shares jumped to \$16 when the company announced it was selling operations and hit \$25.85 by last week's close.

TransCanada's shares closed at \$31.60, up \$4.25 on the week. The early betting is that this alliance of gas company giants will be more than a match for the pipeline industry's other big player, Allco.

DAVID EINHORN in Calgary



Newell (left) and Watson a shotgun wedding?

oilfield activity at a time when Canadian and U.S. energy companies are forming partnerships to help cope with depressed oil and gas prices.

In a continental market where new markets, the pre-bid-to-be named new company will be a formidable player, combining Nova's 21,700-km pipeline with its Alberta and TransCanada's 14,489-km network stretching from Alberta in Quebec, with connections to the United States. "This deal makes sense and as a natural consequence of Canada becoming a global competitor," says University of Calgary business professor Allan Carlson. "If you want to compete



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The Bottom Line Rethinking capitalism

The backlash has begun. As the pace of corporate mergers and acquisitions accelerates, a growing number of experts are questioning its long-term consequences and the impact of diminished capitalism. They are particularly concerned by the size and clout of the resulting mega-corporations, and their diminished connections with the communities in which they operate.

Wall Street financier George Soros was one of the first to call the mark with a stricture in *Atlantic Monthly* magazine a year ago. In it, he warned that excessive globalization of the ability to make big money is creating a society in which material success is all that counts. He fretted that the current obsession with free markets is creating a less responsible, less vigorous global community.

Peter Drucker, considered by many to be the father of modern management theory, also cautions that he now has "serious reservations about capitalism." Meanwhile, Mark Albin, a former professor at Harvard Business School, in preaching corporate responsibility, Albin encourages MBA students to pursue societal good alongside financial gain.

The latest episode of that trend is British author Charles Handy, a former executive at Shell International and visiting professor at the London Business School. Handy's new book, *The Unhappy Spirit*, argues that the increasingly narrow focus on profit and size is creating an unbalanced, unsustainable system. He urges large companies to view the market as communities with a broad social purpose.

The recent history of mergers and acquisitions among major companies is certainly cause for reflecting on the future of business. All previous records for the volume and value of takeovers were shattered in 1997. And in the span of one week in January, the Royal Bank of Canada and Bank of Montreal announced plans to join forces, Noran Corp. and TransCanada Pipelines Ltd. unveiled their merger and Union Pacific Re-

sources Group made an offer for Norwest Energy Resources. In the United States, Allstate Insurance closed an on Peabridge Ltd. and Compaq Computer made a bid to acquire Digital Equipment Corporation.

That rapid-fire sequence of deals may seem bewildering, but it is not the first time that capitalism has appeared to run amok. The North American economy is now in its fifth major cycle of mergers. At the turn of the 19th century, as much as half of all U.S. manufacturing capacity was on one side, or another of a takeover deal. Subsequent waves crested in the 1890s, 1920s, and late 1980s.

In the past, each bout of corporate consolidation has carried the seeds of its own correction

The common denominator in each merger boom is a key innovation or idea for coping with dramatic change. At the turn of the century, national markets and mass production techniques were the catalysts. The driving force now is information technology and the emergence of global markets.

In the past, each bout of corporate consolidation carried the seeds of its own correction. Similar warning signs may already be flashing for this round of mergers. The most obvious signal of overextended capitalism is that almost every new deal is accompanied by grand claims about future communities of work, operating efficiencies and cost-cutting. But when many multi-billion-dollar enterprises come together, it can take years to realize those gains. Against a backdrop of cutthroat competition, duplicate operations—from information systems to dental plans—have to be rationalized. Even more challenging is the task of effectively blending two distinct corporate cultures into one.

As more mergers are announced, the numbers of companies will become smaller. Only five years ago, "small is beautiful" was the operating mantra for companies that deluged and downsized. Today, once again, bigger is supposedly better. Perhaps, but critics can take heart. In an ever-quickening market, successful mergers depend on two qualities increasingly in short supply: patience and a long attention span.



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Business NOTES

COMPUTER MEGA-MERGER

Compaq Computer Corp. of Houston launched the largest takeover in the history of the computer industry with a \$14-billion bid for Digital Equipment Corp. of Maynard, Mass. The combined company would be the industry's second-largest player after IBM Corp., generating \$55 billion in annual revenues.

MORE CUTS AT EATON'S

Struggling T. Eaton Co. Ltd. said it will cut an additional 1,200 jobs by shutting three more stores and closing the furniture, electronics and appliance departments in 21 others. The retail chain's latest moves bring the total number of store closures in the past year to 25. To raise money for the restructuring, the Eaton family sold its 41-per-cent stake in Eaton Broadcasting Inc. in the open market for \$340 million. Eaton is the majority stakeholder in the CTV television network.

NESSBITT TAPES TARGETED

A group of shareholders who lost money as a result of the Brier-Holmes Ltd. gold fraud obtained a summary judgment from the Ontario Superior Court of Justice to require tapes of conference calls that evening analyst Egidio Biondini held with clients before the tapes were exposed. In one call last March, Biondini assured investors "the gold is there" and called rumors of tampering "improbable."

LAIDLAW CLOSES IN

Burlington, Ont.-based Laidlaw Inc. appears likely to prevail in its controversial \$2-billion bid for Safety-Kleen Corp., a waste management firm based in Illinois. Laidlaw's role in the long-running takeover battle, Philip Services Corp. of Hamilton shook investor confidence after announcing a \$15-million inventory shortfall. The company said it is investigating the problem.

HIGHWAY ACROSS ISRAEL

A consortium led by Toronto-based Canadian Highways International Constructors won a \$1.1-billion contract to build an automated toll road in Israel. The consortium will finance, design, build and operate the 66-lane Cross-Israel Highway from Jerusalem to near Haifa.

Dark days for the dollar

The Canadian dollar hit its lowest level ever, prompting the Bank of Canada to boost its key lending rate by half a percentage point to five per cent. The major banks followed suit by raising their prime rates half a point to 6.5 per cent. The central bank's long expected move helped to rescue the loonie from a low of 68.25 cents (U.S.) to close the week at 68.70 cents (U.S.). But analysts warned that further shocks are likely in the weeks ahead, because of financial turmoil in Asia, which less and jittery investors to situation the loonie in favor of the stronger U.S. dollar. Despite the hike in interest rates, the Bank of Canada said it is still positive about the prospects for 1998. Prime Minister Jean Chretien insisted that the dollar's decline has nothing to do with Canada's economic performance. "We have no more doubts," he said. "We don't have inflation, unemployment is declining, we have begun to pay the debt, but the dollar is lower than it should be."

Dialling for discounts

Long-distance charges are tumbling fast as Canada's phone companies scramble for market share. AT&T Canada launched the latest round of price cuts by extending its 10-cent-a-minute weekend rate for calls within Canada to weekdays between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Within hours, Sprint Canada fought back by announcing by-the-second billing. Sprint also reduced some international charges and



Blue Jays: losing the exchange-rate game

Merchants in border towns were not complaining. Shopowners and restaurateurs say the weaker dollar has unleashed a flood of U.S. customers. The dollar's decline is also good news for major Canadian exporters, including forest products giant MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. of Vancouver and Montreal-based Alcan Aluminum Ltd. However, companies that rely on imports have been hurt, and professional sports teams that pay their players in U.S. dollars, such as baseball's Toronto Blue Jays, are also suffering.

waved its fees for calls that last less than 10 seconds. Then, Bell Canada introduced its most aggressive pricing plan yet, lowering 10-cent-a-minute calls within Canada on weekends and weekdays between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. Bell, which serves Ontario and Quebec, said it expects its counter-parts in other provinces to launch similar deep-discount plans. For consumers, however, the price war promises to make the choice of long-distance provider even more bewildering.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

BANKRUPTCIES

Consumer and business failures

Jan.-Nov., 1996 89,243

Jan.-Nov., 1997 90,786

Dark clouds are gathering on the economic horizon, largely as a result of Asia's financial crisis. Statistics Canada says the gross domestic product shrank 0.3 per cent in November after two months of gains. The latest hike in interest rates will likely compound the economy's problems by damaging consumer confidence.

On the plus side, the falling dollar is likely to spur exports, provided that the U.S. economy—the destination for most Canadian exports—does not also slow down.

New material prices dropped by a higher-than-expected 2.1 per cent in December, taking the year-to-year trend down to

-10.9 per cent, the steepest in nearly 30 years."
—Maddalena

"Assets will again be a significant factor in the housing market in 1998. It's no surprise because Alcor's supercharged economy continues to outpace the rest of the country."
—Royal LePage

"With indications of weaker growth and inflation running below the central bank's target band, the timing and the magnitude of the rate hike is uncertain."
—Bank of Montreal



Peter C. Newman

No merger wanted at Peter Godsoe's bank

When Peter Godsoe opened his Bank of Nova Scotia annual meeting in Ottawa last week, he had a clear message for his shareholders: "I'm not here to announce the merger of Scotia with the rest of the world." The chairman of Canada's fourth largest bank then went on to argue that the Scotia is big enough as it is (assets total \$195 billion), and he welcomed the prospect of competing with global giants. Shareholders gave him a round of applause, approved a two-for-one stock split (share value has increased almost 40 per cent in the past year, about half of that since the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Montreal announced their merger intentions in Jan 16) and gave the bank's directors a healthy pay increase.

Godsoe was actually second chance on the Royal's dance card, but Matt Barnett of the Montreal declined to waltz with Julius Gagliardi. Strengthened by its \$12 billion acquisition of Hal Jackson's National Trust last year, the Scotia has been beating its overseas rivals, particularly in Latin America. "Roughly half of our assets and revenues are international now," Godsoe told me during a recent interview. "And I fully expect that sometime soon in the next century we'll end up with more people working for us in South America than in Canada. We have good ventures or own quite large banks in Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela and El Salvador. We just venture—anywhere from 30 per cent to 70 per cent of the equity—for political reasons and to add leverage to our capital. Everybody focused on our purchase of National Trust, but we have been doing much more growth with our own resources."

But is the Scotia big enough to compete globally? "Sure," says Godsoe. "We're certainly big enough to compete in our own country and in my mind there is no question that we can compete with some of the global giants."

The Bank of Nova Scotia has tripled its market capitalization in the past four years, and, unlike the Royal and Montreal, feels no need to increase in order to take on the world. "I imagine that if you were interested for a day and you looked at this piece of exciting huge megacorporations for Canada, you would encourage mergers, which is what the Dutch, the Belgians and the Swiss have done. If we opened everything up totally, we'd probably lose two of our banks to the foreigner stock as the Hongkong Bank. They would buy a Canadian bank without a blink."

Armed with a MBSA, Godsoe got his banking start as a teller at Ottawa's first secure business bank, Peter Co. He had grown up three blocks from Toronto's Upper Canada College, tried it for a year, then switched to the less prestigious but academically superior University of Toronto Schools, going on to study math and

physics at the University of Toronto, and later taking his MBA at Harvard. (Toronto-Dominion Bank president and CEO Charles Balfour was also at UTS, the U of T, and Harvard at the same time as Godsoe, and they were both members of the Delta Sigma fraternity. Yes, Virginia, there is a Canadian and a Harvard.)

After taking an accounting degree, his first major manager job got at the bank was running its New York City office, where he was competing with the big-time money men at Citibank, Bank of America and Citicorp. "My bosses weren't as narrow as that of many Canadian bankers at the time," he recalls. "I came out of the United States knowing we could compete with the Americans. It also formed what came to be an internationally ready agent, and that if we couldn't, we'd lose our bank."

Godsoe is the most international of our bank chairmen. In the past decade, he has overseen 270 days a year on the road, doing deals for the Scotia's global treasury department that he ran later, he was in charge of the Far East, Middle East, and Latin American sections. Under Godsoe's direction, documentary banking has become more decentralized. He has allowed leading firms for bank employees in the field to double to \$10 million, with a risk control committee in the Toronto head office to quickly vet the bigger loans.

In terms of public image, Godsoe acknowledges that the bank has a serious problem. "We're on the defensive the way we never used to be," he says. "The popularity of the big banks is relatively low, and believably low. We really do need some proactive legislation out of Ottawa. If Canada doesn't come up with an industrial strategy that takes account of its financial services industry, it will keep receding in importance and ultimately will be taken over by foreigner. God help us if everything is owned by Americans. We don't have any much that's big and you can't build a whole country on small. It just doesn't work."

One of Godsoe's pet causes is to boost Toronto as a world financial centre, a crusade that he realizes doesn't endear him to Canadians who live away from the Bayview City. "Toronto as a financial centre is a delicate asset," he states. "Why does Great Britain fight for London? Why do the French want to have banking in Paris? Why does Singapore fight Hong Kong? There is an essential critical mass in Toronto, not just economically, but culturally. If you fly to Montreal or Los Angeles, where that business core has been hollowed out, you immediately understand how important and irreplaceable that is."

Godsoe is a middle-of-the-road banker who does not believe in confronting governments or losing shareholders, but he also realizes the importance of Canadian banks becoming much more international, and of all his glassier exposure south of the Rio Grande came true, his successor will have to be truly bilingual. English and Spanish

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People

Edited by
BARBARA WICKENS

Heating up the arenas

Our Lady Peace concerts are renowned for their passionate displays of rock 'n' roll. And although the Toronto group is now playing sold-out engagements in huge hockey arenas instead of its trademark smaller venues, the band has lost none of its trademark intensity. Lead singer **Haine Maida**, 27, believes that an arena concert is not just an impersonal "I grew up seeing bands like U2 and R.E.M. in these kinds of places," he says, on a break from the band's current cruise-Canada tour, which includes stops at Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto, the Calgary Saddledome and GM Place in Vancouver. "And I have always felt transported listening to them." The band has not, it's true, as big arena concerts by opening up for rock mainstays **The Rolling Stones**, **Van Halen**, **Jimmy Page** and **Robert Plant**, over the past two years.

Bored the top-selling Canadian rock band of the decade after the *Tragically Hip*, our Lady Peace has sold 700,000 copies of its second album, *Cherry*, in Canada. Maida's intense lyrics and stage performance are a large part of the success. While flying himself across the stage has become a familiar sight at concerts, lately it has become an occupational hazard. After two herniated discs, the singer is under strict doctor's orders to restrain his dancing.



Maida: Invested discs from thrashing on stage

Maida's songs deal with such dark subjects as insecurities and teen angst, but he insists that his lyrics are ultimately optimistic. "I've decided it is not healthy to be down all the time or to engage in the whole act of being angry," says Maida. "Too much more into compassion. That's what I hope people get from our shows." Even those sitting up in the nosebleed section.

Signals for speed

Short-track speed skating is a fast and striking sport in which winning depends on seeing, and hearing, a competitor's every move. When **Chantalé Sivigny**, a Calgary-based skater who has been deaf from birth, is racing, **Marcel Lacros**, the national team coach, is her eyes. Lacros and Sivigny—who lip-reads and picks up some sound from a hearing aid—have a system of hand signals and colored cards to explain how the race is developing. Now, Sivigny, 22, is on the Olympic team as an alternate with the women's relay. The only special treatment she receives is before a race, when the starting signal is moved from behind the competitors to in front, so she can see the starting gun. "Chantalé is excited to be an athlete going to the Olympics," says Lacros. "That's a deaf athlete going."



Sivigny: her coach does the hearing

Child of the film set

When kids visit their fathers at work, it can leave a lasting impression. That is certainly the case with **Julie Kaudan**, whose father is Hollywood director **Lawrence Kasdan**. At age 15, the younger Kasdan was a regular on the set of *The Accidental Tourist*, where he got actor **Dell Perlinson**. Now 23, Kasdan has cost Perlinson (*Independence Day*) as the lead in his screenwriting and directing.



Kasdan: losing impressions

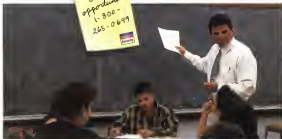
tutorial debut, *Zero Effect*, an off-kilter take on the classic detective film. Perlinson, 44, portrays Daryl Zero, a great

gesture who can barely function in his off-hours. "Bill is an incredibly emotional, decent guy," says Kasdan. "He is not a hard guy to be older than you," or "I'm a cranky one!" As for his famous father, Kasdan acknowledges the relationship helped his career—but not in the string-pulling way some people might imagine. "I've grown up around movie sets and seen how it is done since I was little," he explains. "Without that, I don't know if I would have been prepared to step into the sublimely scarying

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A class in action

In the spring of 1993, Christian Goudard was an unemployed, high-school graduate living at home in Bathurst, N.B., trying to sort out his future. At 22, he had spent one year at the University of Moncton, another at New Brunswick Community College in his hometown and a few months in the armed forces. Then, on the advice of a family friend, Goudard contacted the Toronto-based DeVry Institute of Technology, a private vocational school, which sent a recruiter to his house to outline the advantages of attending DeVry, qualified instructors, small classes, state-of-the-art computer labs, and a 90 per cent chance of obtaining a high-paying job upon graduation.



Goudard and Korol both left the schools with huge debts.

By May, Goudard was studying computer information systems at one of DeVry's Toronto-area campuses. But in February, 1996, deeply disappointed in the education he was receiving, Goudard quit. He had no diploma, and he was in debt.

"The marketing for the school was top-notch," recalls Goudard. "But some of the classes were so large I had to sit on the floor. And I had better computer equipment at home than they had."

Goudard is not alone as a disgruntled and heavily indebted ex-DeVry student. And he is a group of six like-minded former students are leading an attempt to recover their tuition fees through a class-action lawsuit. Two weeks ago in a downtown Toronto courtroom, their lawyer, Gary Will, argued that the suit should be allowed to proceed on behalf of the roughly 15,000 students who attended DeVry schools between 1990 and 1999—a stretch was opened in Mississauga, Ont., last year—on the grounds that all were swayed by marketing campaigns, which he termed "misleading."

But the Northern Ontario-based Justice Warren Winkler of the Ontario Court of General Division to dismiss the suit, stating that it was "not a class action."

While they awaited Winkler's ruling, DeVry officials refused to comment directly on the criticism of their executives. However, the institute's Canadian president Peter Brown, a former high-school vice-principal and community college administrator,

said that DeVry has been operating in Toronto since 1957, and has produced more than 10,000 graduates. "It's been around longer in Ontario than any of the community colleges and half the universities," said Brown. "So they must have been doing something right all those years."

DeVry, which specializes in computer, electronics and business courses, charges just over \$3,000 per four-month semester, and students must complete from five to nine semesters to graduate, depending on their course of study. The Canadian operation is a division of the publicly traded DeVry Inc., a Chicago-area company with 11 campuses throughout the United States, and revenues of \$460 million in the 12 months ending June 30, 1997, up 38.6 per cent from the previous fiscal year.

In his arguments before Winkler, lawyer Will argued that DeVry Canada attracts students primarily through newspaper and TV advertising, as well as direct-mail marketing, and last year alone spent more than \$2 million on such campaigns. He said DeVry's

own statistics show that 65 per cent of those who enroll do not graduate. But this figure does not appear in the advertising material, he added. The institute stresses that more than 90 per cent of graduates who seek employment find education-related work within six months.

DeVry Canada's troubles go beyond a potentially costly class-action suit. Within the next few weeks, the Ontario education ministry expects to receive the results of a forensic audit, conducted by outside consultants, of all DeVry student loan applications approved over a three-year period, beginning July 1, 1993. Helmut Zinner, director of the ministry's student support branch, said his office suspended funding for DeVry students between August, 1995, and April, 1996, after discovering dozens of applications claiming very lowly income, all signed by institute officials. DeVry's eligibility for student funding was reinstated conditionally after they paid \$1.5-million compensation for previous loans and provided a \$2-million letter of credit to cover any additional irregularities discovered by the auditors.

For some DeVry graduates, the 19-year-old David Quasana of Kitchener, Ont., the DeVry experience has been both challenging and rewarding. After he earned his electronics engineering technology diploma in October, 1994, the graduate placement office lined up three interviews for him, and the third led him to Quasana now works for the Canadian subsidiary of a Swedish company, Esselte Meta, which services and repairs bar-coding equipment. Still, he will be repaying his loans at a rate of \$284 a month for the next 10 years, and he has some reservations about DeVry's recruiting techniques. Quasana contends that the institute probably accepts too many students, including some who have little or no aptitude for the subjects they are studying. "A lot of people couldn't grasp the material because they didn't have the background," he says.

Christopher Korol, a 29-year-old Mississauga, Ont., life insurance agent, will also be repaying his loans for some time. Korol borrowed \$12,000 to study computer information systems at DeVry, but left in the spring of 1994 after two semesters. He left the classes were too large and the equipment in computer labs was outdated. Moreover, Korol said, DeVry sent him for 10 days after he had not paid fee, and he counter-sued in small claims court to have his tuition refunded, but a judge dismissed both actions. Still, he hopes to recover some of his debt. Like many former students, Korol is awaiting Winkler's ruling, hoping he grants them the opportunity to air their grievances in a court of law.

DAVID JENSH

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Clinton and his wife, Hillary, mainstream psychiatrists tend to dismiss the theory

Is sex an addiction?

Thousands flock to AA-like treatment sessions

Five years ago, David was a senior executive with a major North American manufacturer. A workaholic, David gave his real talent dedicated long hours to his job—but he managed to find time for a fairly consistent round of extramarital encounters with prostitutes and other women. Finally, a liaison with a fellow employee ended David's career after the woman complained to company officials about sexual harassment. Fired, David wound up being treated at a center that specializes in helping people who are addicted to sex. "I'd never heard of sex addiction," says David, now in his late 50s and doing part-time work as a consultant. "I had realized that the way I was carrying on was dumb—and dangerous for me. But I had no idea that it was because of an addiction." Sexual addiction, he adds, "is about power; it's about controlling people through sex—and sex addicts need the thrill of illicit sex. When I see what my life was going on in the White House, I feel deep gratitude that I got the help I needed."

As President Bill Clinton battled last week against allegations of multiple sexual transgressions, there was some speculation that the U.S. chief executive might be the driven and intensely desperate victim of sex addiction. The idea flows from the increasingly popular, but controversial, notion that obsessive sex can lead to dependency in the same way that alcohol and narcotics do. Therapists who work in the field say if the

allegations about him are true, Clinton's alleged affairs—and his increasingly relevant details—could be typical symptoms of the disease. "This is a big issue for our country right now," says Linda Hudson, chairwoman of the Manassas, Ga.-based National Council on Sexual Addiction and Compulsivity, whose 400 members include therapists and other professionals working in the field. "And it's a very scary thing."

Of course, the allegations against the president at any point are groundless, and even if they are true, that does not necessarily make him a sex addict. And in any case, is there really such a thing? Or is sex addiction just another example of creating medical terms to excuse phallic idiosyncrasy—a questionable concept rooted upon by a victim-blamed society?

Mainstream psychiatrists tend to dismiss the theory of sex addiction as a byproduct of ill-balanced ideas, neither the American Medical Association nor its Canadian counterpart recognizes it as a valid concept. "As far as I'm concerned," says Nady el-Guebaly, a University of Calgary psychiatry professor, "there is no clearly defined syndrome called sex addiction—it's just a theory." But since a handful of Alcoholics Anonymous members began meeting to discuss sex and love addiction in the 1970s, the movement has gained thousands of adherents, with affiliated organizations modeled on AA holding daily meetings in cities in North America and Europe,

and about 10 institutions in the United States and Canada offering treatment programs.

Therapists and other experts in sex addiction say the problem usually has its origins in childhood—they estimate that at least 70 per cent of sex addicts were sexually abused as youngsters, and that most grew up in homes plagued by addiction problems, violence or other kind of stress. Once it takes root, the condition manifests itself in a spectrum of behaviors that can be subtle in gravity. In the early stages, sex addicts may engage in excessive masturbation, serial love affairs or compulsive visits to strip clubs. The next stage can involve riskier behavior—exhibitionism, voyeurism, sex with prostitutes and obsessive surfing for sex on the Internet, an increasingly hazardous activity for some sex addicts as law enforcement agencies crack down on child pornography and other illegal forms of cybersex. In extreme cases, the addiction can lead to even more serious offences such as incest, child molestation and rape.

When the condition is full-blown, experts say the addict's mind is taken over by obsessive thinking, a psychological dependency that overrides everything else in life—and by a desperate desire to convert observational thoughts into action. At that point, says Mona Sommer, clinical director of the Benbrook Foundation, a Billings, Mont., center that treats sex addicts, "the compulsion is so powerful that the addict's life is out of control. It's like losing your soul."

If all of the allegations against him are true, would that make Bill Clinton a sex addict? "This level of behavior," says Hudson, "is usually an indication of true addiction, and then the beginning of the addict will do anything to protect his secret." While the addict grapples with a growing risk of exposure, says Hudson, his spouse or partner is "usually some one in deep denial who reacts with desperate efforts at damage control." More cautiously, Sommer suggests that while the president's alleged behavior would involve actions that "would result from sex addiction, we have no way of knowing what is in his mind—whether he has the psychological dependence that is part of the disease." Sexual escapades can have other explanations, she adds. "A man in a position of power, surrounded by young women, women, says Sommer, "can succumb to temptation."

Previously, doctors say, "character was not a disease. But don't tell that to the 12,000 members of Boston-based Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, which argues that while sex addicts cannot be cured, they can be freed from their obsession. The tragedy of the condition, people in treatment say, is that too often its victims must experience exposure, humiliation and the loss of their jobs before getting help—a process that in the case of the U.S. presidency could prove unbearably wrenching."

MARK NICHOLS

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THEATRE

boam"), the award-hoarding writer-actor describes her childhood self as a bold and energetic little girl obsessed with theatre. "I was that kid who used to stage puppet shows in the backyard and drag everyone she knew in to see them." But when, after high school and the usual summer theatre, she enrolled in the mid-70s at Montreal's National Theatre School, she was locked out of the end of her first year. "It wasn't that I was wild and rebellious," says Griffiths. "Quite the opposite. I'd shrunk to a shadow of myself. I just couldn't connect with performing in plays by George Bernard Shaw or whatever. It seemed to have nothing to do with my own thoughts or beliefs about

learn how to write." Griffiths recalls, "and I was not going to learn while pursuing an apparently sterile theatrical career. Every time I said 'I was writing in my journal,' I would start writing a new play instead."

And so the golden moment passed, and Griffiths settled into the endless trench warfare of a career in Canadian theatre—with the occasional bit of film and television work on the side. Her plays include *O.D. on Paradise* (1982), for award-winning Jeanne (1986) and *The Darling Family* (1987), which was nominated for a Governor General's Award and subsequently made into a film starring herself. Her income, she admits, has a couple of lines dipped below the poverty line, and



Louise Bogan (left) as Anne, David Griffiths, William, the adolescent crisis revisited

anything, I didn't know what was going on." After her expulsion, she went for a long walk in the rain on St. Lawrence Boulevard. "I was totally humiliated, but I said to myself, 'I'm going to do this thing. Maybe I'm not very good. Maybe I'll get better. But I'm going to do whether anybody likes me or not.'"

Griffiths began to find her theatrical voice a couple of years later while acting at Saskatchewan's 25th Street Theatre. It was there that Paul Thompson (who also directs *The Duskies*) introduced her to improvisational acting, and so nurtured a budding of the two sides of her talent: actor and writer. The two went on to co-write *Magpie and Pierre*, which played to raves in Canada's best booked theatre in a brief New York City run. Griffiths was devastated. "I felt I'd let Canada down," but American film director John Seely was impressed by Griffiths and cast her as the lead in his 1993 film, *James*. Suddenly, Griffiths was being pursued by the media, and by Hollywood agents. A career in Tinseltown seemed to beckon. "If Griffiths were more like Reagan, that would have been the point of which she left Canada for good. The trouble is, she was so interested in writing as acting," I had to

she says that very it was for her magical shift as the host of the same program *Shakespeare Remix*, "I would be holding my hat out on Floor Street."

At least her fellow cast members in *The Duskies* are kindred spirits. Among them are Pini, Jennifer Philips and John Seely—all extraordinarily fine performers who have chosen to risk out a living in Canada. Along with designer Annyl Jackson, they bring an almost Shakespearean energy and color to the show. Particularly memorable are Fox's splintering, right-splintered Ring Queen V, and Philips's drily confused Queen Mary Moorehouse. Griffiths has chosen to play *Shakespeare* as a head-on, head-on, head-on head-on—a bracing Yankee wind in a stately royal court.

Talking about *The Duskies*, Griffiths pauses and admits she has found a kind of peace with herself. "Now, I'm great, because now I'm at the stage where it's not going to happen. I'm never going to go to the States and be famous. I can just concentrate on the work. That's where I'm happiest." No doubt Wallace Sanguon would disagree.

JOHN REMBOISE

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Allan Fotheringham

When reckless randiness rules a capital

Washington is unique among the capitals of the world because yellow journalism runs right over our head, snatching conversations at barbecues and dinner parties. The reason they can do this is because they are landing at National Airport, right in the centre of the population.

The reason they can do this is because Washington has no skyscrapers, no building, by law, being allowed to be taller than the Washington Monument. Like Paris, all the buildings are the same height—in this case, 12 stories being the limit.

Selfishness runs you see on leaders, outlined against a lovely blue January sky, is the magnificent stone spine of the monument to George Washington, a phallic symbol rising from the ground—very appropriate to the incomprehensible sex scandal involving current Bill Clinton's head.

Slick Willie, as his hometown newspaper long ago dubbed him, once confessed to a friend that at high school he was known as "Fat Boy" because he was too clumsy to make any of the sports teams. A fatherless Arkansas kid with few family resources, he came to school in overalls. All he could do was join the school band and play the saxophone.

Jim Schneider, a smart lawyer who handouts a lot of work in Ottawa, lived in the same room in Clinton when both were at Yale Law School. Over dinner at a restaurant cheek-by-jowl with the White House, Schneider recalls that the dorm was so crowded there was no chance of being alone.

Another woman remembers when the young Clinton, out of Oxford, came to work for Senator William Fulbright, the famed Arkansas statesman whose career was ruined by his opposition to the Vietnam War. She considered herself attractive and was married—and a little hairy—why the serious young man never gave her a seducing glance or asked out any of the other comely women he worked with?

Well, something happened. The future Slick Willie, in that long ago confession to a friend, allowed that he was astonished that once becoming governor of his state, loads and loads of women suddenly flocked to Fat Boy very attractive. As the not-attractive-but-very clever



Henry Kissinger once advised (no doubt from his own experience) "Power is the greatest aphrodisiac of all." Clinton became a kid hell-en into a candy store. The result is that the *New York Daily News* goes, for an earnest interview, to Dr. Christine Seaman, director of the Second Addiction Treatment and Training Institute in Manhattan. And now Washington, naturally, in a office with one-liners, must cannot be repeated for fear they will frighten the children and the horses in the streets.

Clinton gives new meaning to "land of state." Most people get AIDS from sex, Clinton gets sex from aides. It's the Unabomber. And so on. Enough already.

He is not alone, as we know. One Wesley Haggard, in a book called *Presidential Sex*, laid out Clinton's predecessors. He wasn't even certain JFK, but when FDR died at Warm Springs, Ga., he was with his mistress, who just happened to be Eleanor Roosevelt's secretary.

Warren Harding took the stunning Nan Britton into a White House closet and locked the door so that when his wife banged on it, she couldn't get in. Thomas Jefferson's wife, Martha, died young with a desolated plea that he never remarry. He obeyed—and conducted a 40-year affair (and some children) with Sally Hemings, one of his many black slaves.

On a private journal of the White House last week, your daisied agent was most impressed by the presidential desk in the Oval Office, which was made from the oak remains of a British ship, the *Rosebud*, that had run aground off a

steamy shore. Author Haywood says Lyndon Johnson had sex atop it. And so it goes. Jennifer Jones followed by Marlon Brando. All the polls show the American public is getting a little bored with it—bored not with Clinton but with all the women. Hillary, who likes her job with all the perks, says it's all due to "a vast right-wing conspiracy."

She does have some points. Independent counsel Kenneth Starr has spent \$38 million in 100 nearly four years trying to get the Clintons and now has turned the obscure *Whitewater* land deal into sex. He is a Republican raised by a thrice-divorced (and) whose chairman is a political ally of the administration Jesse Helms.

There is the mysterious Richard Mellon Scaife, a publisher who funds Pepperdine University in California where Starr is going to head the law school when his never-ending probe ends. Scaife finances something called the Landmark Legal Foundation, which hired the lawyer for the creepy Linda Tripp who secretly taped her "husband" Lewinsky. Scaife's newspapers push the theory that Clinton's aide Vincent Foster was murdered.

The Paula Jones lawsuit is paid for by the conservative Robertal Institute, which was created by the empire of Rev Jerry Falwell, that epitome of rectitude.

It is hard, in all this marksmen, to discern what is worse—the dark underbelly of the Republican party or the reckless randomness of the Prespic President. One can only weep for Chelsea.

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